

Hafa Adai!

CUC warns of wastewater odor. **PAGE 9**

Ex-FSM envoy conferred with Japanese imperial honors. **PAGE 15**

75¢

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FBI search lasted hours

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

After about seven and a half hours of combing through the office of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Thursday, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ended their search in the afternoon.

See **FBI** on **Page 4**

Realty office padlocked and glass door damaged

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The office of Legend Realty in western Garapan, which was among several offices

searched last Thursday by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, remained padlocked as of yesterday.

Saipan Tribune asked
See **REALTY** on **Page 4**



The office of Legend Realty in western Garapan is seen padlocked over the weekend. The glass door also had cracks. Legend Realty, along with the office of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, was among the offices searched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last Thursday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



WINNING TICKET

American Red Cross Club 200 co-founder Roberta Guerrero receives the "key" to a brand new 2019 Toyota RAV4LE from Toyota Atkins Kroll general manager Clark Boswell, on behalf of her son-in-law, Alex Sablan, who is this year's lucky grand prize winner.

IVA MAURIN

More
photos on
Page 14

Mobil Rota lease extended to 2033

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature has approved extending the lease of the lone Mobil Oil Marianas branch on Rota until 2033.

Acting at a joint session on Rota last Thursday, both the CNMI House of Representatives and CNMI Senate approved the lease extension proposal for the Mobil branch in Sasanhaya-Songsong, Rota

after its initial 25-year lease term expired last year.

The Legislature approved the lease extension proposal from Mobil to extend its lease for 15 years via Joint Resolution 21-2, with a vote of 16-0 from the House of Representatives and 7-0 from the Senate.

Minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero

See **MOBIL** on **Page 4**

King-Hinds still CPA board chair

» **'We are going to work our heart out to make a dream of building a new terminal on Saipan a reality'**



King-Hinds

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kimberlyn King-Hinds was re-elected chair of the Commonwealth Ports Authority board during an election of officers at the As Paris Restaurant on Rota Friday morning.

Roman T. Tudela Sr. was elected vice
See **KING-HINDS** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

Last Saturday's Indigenous Cultural Expo was a trip to hundreds of years ago.

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BUSINESS

Triple J Enterprises opens its new business, Saipan Payless SuperFresh & Truck-load Store.

PAGE 17



WORLD

A strong cyclone has made landfall in Bangladesh, displacing thousands of people.

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Local

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EXPO

A taste of Chamorro and Carolinian cultures

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Last Saturday's Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla Concert at the Civic Center in Susupe was a trip to hundreds of years ago, with the Saipan community taken on a full day of learning about the islands' traditional ways.

Families were able to taste traditional food and medicines, learn from several weaving demonstrations of skirts, baskets, and hats, as well as pet and ride animals

like chickens, goats, and a bull. They even got free rides on traditional canoes and learned some paddling skills.

"It is that time...where we showcase...the Chamorro and Carolinian culture," said Indigenous Affairs Office director Roman Tudela Jr. "This is an opportunity for the youth who are not exposed to [the traditional ways] at home, to swing by and learn part of a culture that they have not experienced yet."

With "Tree of Life" as its theme, the expo showcased demonstrations of all things

coconut, including the different ways of weaving its leaves, and traditional food preparations. Agriculture and aquaculture were also highlighted.

The more adventurous souls were also able to experience seafaring traditions through free rides being offered by 500 Sails on their three *sakmans*, a type of canoe of the ancient Chamorros.

"We are trying to bring back Chamorro seafaring maritime traditions here in the Marianas," 500 Sails co-founder Emma Perez said, adding that

the canoe is more than just about sailing.

"People like the idea of sailing because it is fun, but it is a lot more than that," Perez said. "There are things that are more culturally based such as the concept of a captain, or a *magas*, that [on the canoe] somebody is boss, and you

have to respect them, and do what they say. It is not a party boat. It is something sacred."

The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation also gave paddling opportunities.

"It is beautiful when you look in and see the island from the lagoon. Paddling ties you

into the cultural aspect of living on an island. You feel like you are an islander learning to work as a team," NMNPSF president Justin Andrew said.

As if the activities were not enough, the community also even got their stomachs full with traditional food such as root crops, roast pig, beef, and fish, that were served in traditional fiestas, all while listening to great music from the Kantan Isla concert that went all night.

CSO completes outreach on Tinian and Rota

The CNMI Scholarship Office completed its outreach efforts on Tinian and Rota last week to bring its message of making college affordable without going into enormous student debt.

With a campaign to "Say No to Student Loans," CSO first presented last Thursday to students and staff on Rota at its Northern Marianas College campus. Information on the many college access programs that the CSO pro-

vides, including the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Student Access Program and CSO work services obligations, were shared.

CSO representatives then spoke before students and staff of Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School shortly after. Students learned about the same opportunities presented on Rota, but were engaged in the High Achiever Travel Aid and Work Service Obligation portion of

the CSO's presentation.

These outreach efforts are in celebration of CNMI Scholarship Month, which is celebrated in November. According to CSO administrator Rose Pangelinan Camacho, this month is usually where the CSO is at its busiest as the office increases outreach efforts on all three islands. For the remainder of this month, CSO intends to hold similar outreach efforts on Saipan. (Marc A. Venus)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TMS PTSA meeting on Nov. 13

The Parents Teachers Students Association meeting for Tanapag Middle School will be on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm in the cafeteria. (PR)

Military training in outer Apra Harbor, Radio Barrigada

SANTA RITA, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training on Nov. 12, from 6pm to 9pm at Radio Barrigada.

This training supports aircrew combat readiness and is critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the

region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific.

U.S. Naval Base Guam Security Forces will conduct training on Nov. 12, from 7am to 3pm in outer Apra Harbor.

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry Regiment will conduct training on Nov. 14-17, from 5am to 11:55pm at

Radio Barrigada. (PR)

Essay contest open to high school students

The Saipan College Prep Academy is holding its "1st Annual SCPA Essay Contest" for high school students on the island. The contest is a double competition, with one open only to SCPA students, and the other being open to all high school students in the CNMI. Students need to write a 650-word essay on the topic, "Is Greta Thunberg right?" and submit it to Keith Tessen or Wanja Choi at the SCPA on or before Dec. 15 for SCPA students, and Dec. 30 for the rest. Winners in both contests will

See ESSAY on Page 4

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Earthquake scenario caps EMT training

MARC A. VENUS

Members of the CNMI Emergency Medical Team transfer water to a container for the EMT's wash station during the EMT's simulation exercises last Friday at the airport field.

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imagine a strong earthquake hitting Tinian and the newly-formed CNMI Emergency Medical Team being sent to the island to respond to the disaster. That was the idea behind a simulation exercise that was conducted last Friday at the airport field on Saipan to test the team's response efforts, to cap the team's training under the auspices of the World Health Organization and Team Rubicon, a disaster response group made up of military veterans.

WHO Health Cluster coordinator Sean Casey told *Saipan Tribune* that the formation of the CNMI EMT—consisting of individuals from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services—builds on the wishes of the CNMI to be able to respond quickly and effectively with high quality care in the event of a natural disaster.

"CHCC decided to strengthen its capacity and clinical response in particular, to be able to respond to any kind of disaster or outbreak, and be fully self-sufficient," Casey said.

Although the nature of all disasters may vary as earthquakes may continue with aftershocks and possibly a tsunami, Casey said it is best for the team to be prepared to respond swiftly. That includes being able to treat patients while ensuring hygiene control, plus infection prevention and control.

This exercise was portrayed to be as real as possible, with volunteers from the United Filipino Organization portraying themselves as patients injured from the earthquake. The CNMI EMT will be a Type 1 EMT, which will provide clinical services during the daytime and afternoon hours in the event of a natural disaster.

Team Rubicon's Dennis

Clancey believes that the CNMI EMT is ready. "I think the people of the CNMI really thought about all the various skills they would want to have on a small team where members are [capable] of performing multiple tasks," Clancey said.

He noted that the CNMI EMT learned how to assemble tents, create a sanitized mobile medical clinic, and other necessary skills in the event of a disaster.

Clancey is no stranger to the CNMI as he assisted the relief efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, being the reconnaissance team leader for Team Rubicon.

CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez noted that this is the first step for the CNMI EMT, as getting the verification of the team's formation is essential to disaster response. He said the EMT intends to continue to work with the UFO and the Public School System to create an increased amount of support for the EMT. One of the shortfalls that the CNMI EMT is currently facing is the shortage of personnel and, in order to address it, he said that they will need to enlist individuals from the UFO and possibly PSS in the near future to help the EMT in the event of disasters.

The CNMI EMT is the first EMT created in a U.S.-affiliated territory within the WHO's Pacific jurisdiction. Type 1 EMT's deal with outpatient cases and operates in daylight hours while being completely self-sufficient, and can be fixed on a certain location or target numerous locations.

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REALTY

From Page 1

for an update about the FBI's searches, but FBI Honolulu media coordinator/special agent Jason K. White has yet to respond as of press time yesterday.

Saipan Tribune observed that the right side of Legend Realty's window door had several cracks. It was not clear whether the damage was caused by the FBI's search. It was also not clear whether it was the FBI that padlocked the office.

Some witnesses told *Saipan Tribune* that FBI agents started the search Thursday at about 10am and that they were still there at the building at about 5:30pm later that same day.

One of the witnesses said the FBI agents hauled off a lot of items from Legend Realty.

Michael Dotts, who represents Legend Realty on limited matters, usually on specific real estate transactions and with regard to maintaining their LLC status, said yesterday that he has no comment at this time about the search.

A source said Legend Realty is 51% owned by a foreign company called Legend Gi-



In this frame grab taken from Facebook that purports to show photos from Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' birthday, he is flanked here by Ron Anderson, who is part-owner of Legend Realty, left, and his brother Jack Torres, one of the principals of the Torres Brothers law office. Both Legend Realty and the Torres Brothers law office were reportedly searched by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ant Investment Limited, with an office in Hong Kong. The principal of Legend Giant is believed to be named Donglin Wang. Ron Anderson owns 49% of Legend Realty.

Saipan Tribune also learned that Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC had at least a transaction with Legend Realty, which served as the broker in an assignment of a lease deal.

The office of Yue at IPI-owned Vestcor Commercial Plaza on Capital Hill was also among those reportedly searched by the FBI. Yue is a consultant of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Another worker of a commercial business near Legend Realty said the establishment is always closed, even before the FBI's search last Thursday. The worker said the FBI's

raid prompted a massage parlor near Legend Realty to close until the weekend for unknown reasons.

Yue used to work as managing director of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

According to court records, a Chinese woman filed in December 2005 a \$1.5-million lawsuit against Yue, TDHC's original owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., New Echo Entertainment Inc., and five other persons, alleging that she was treated as a virtual slave, beaten up, imprisoned, and forced to sign papers.

Jiang Li Rong sued the defendants for alleged forced labor-human trafficking, unpaid overtime compensation, unpaid minimum wage, breach of contract, fraud, battery, intentional infliction of distress, false imprisonment, and negligence.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain information from Mark B. Hanson, who is counsel for Rong, as to the status of the lawsuit but there was no response as of press time.

According to Hanson in the lawsuit, his client managed to escape on May 7, 2005, from an apartment where she was treated like a slave and tortured

to sign "confession" papers.

Hanson stated in the complaint that HKE, then owner of Tinian Dynasty, hired Rong and brought her to Saipan where she became a victim of human trafficking.

Hanson said Echo Karaoke is a brothel incorporated by Yue in western Garapan. The karaoke bar allegedly purported to employ Rong part of the time when she was employed on Saipan.

It was allegedly Yu, Tinian Dynasty and a stakeholder of Echo Karaoke who processed the documents necessary for Rong's transportation to and employment in the CNMI.

When Rong arrived on Saipan on Dec. 29, 2004, she

was met at the airport by the manager of the karaoke and transported to an apartment in Vestcor Village on Capital Hill.

Hanson said that in April 2005, Yue and co-defendants purported to cause Rong to be transferred from the employment at Tinian Dynasty to the employment of Echo Karaoke as a "waitress" by a consensual transfer approved by the Labor director.

Other offices searched by the FBI were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' on Capital Hill, and IPI's finance and human resources office at the Marina Heights Business Park Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

MOBIL

From Page 1

(R-Saipan), Sens. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) were absent from the joint session. Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) abstained, citing conflict of interest.

The lease extension proposal includes annual rental payments of at least 5% of the appraised fair market value of the property, which is about \$82,000, but not less than the rental amount for the preceding five years at \$28,604.

The proposal also includes public benefits of \$1,000 a month in fuel for Rota municipal government vehicles as well as 10 safety cones, oil absorbent booms, and eight drums of firefighting foam for the Rota Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The public benefits amount to about \$220,000 over the 15-year period of the extension.

Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-

Saipan) and Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) both offered an amendment to J.R. 21-2, to authorize the Department of Public Lands to negotiate and incorporate into the final lease agreement increased public benefits to "support public education, health care services and programs, welfare and safety, and the environment on Rota" according to a statement from Sablan.

"...The amendment was drafted in consultation with Rota Sens. Terry Santos and Victor Hocog. Rep. Marco Peter moved to amend our proposal so that it would come from the Committee of the Whole, to which we agreed. The amendment was unanimously adopted," she noted in a statement she later released after the session.

The Office of the Attorney General must first approve the final lease agreement—signed by both DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo and Mobil Oil Marianas—before the extension takes effect.

KING-HINDS

From Page 1

chair and former Saipan senator Thomas P. Villagomez was chosen secretary.

The board's committees assignments remain on status quo, except for the financial affairs committee, which will be now be chaired by Ramon Tebuteb.

Barrie C. Toves chairs the airport facilities committee, Pete P. Reyes chairs the seaport facilities committee, and Joseph Diaz chairs the personnel affairs committee.

The biggest and most critical issue the new board faces is the planned construction of a new terminal to replace the aging and antiquated terminal of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

King-Hinds said yesterday that the Saipan airport is perhaps one of the most, if not the most, critical economic infrastructure in the CNMI. With the CNMI having a tourism driven economy, that means the airport is the first and last impression of the Commonwealth.

King-Hinds said the terminal is clearly deteriorating.

The chair noted that many industry partners have expressed the need for CPA to get with the times and meet the industry demand of providing an environment that's conducive to a good traveling experience. Yet CPA doesn't have the money and neither does the CNMI government.

"But saying we don't have the money to fix the problem is not an option," King-Hinds said. "We believe the time

[to build a new terminal] has come. We are daring to dream. And we are going to work our heart out to make that dream a reality."

King-Hinds said she also wants to see the completion of the Tinian international airport. CPA is eyeing the money from the divert airfield project to federalize the terminal, build a hangar, and a fuel storage facility.

"It's a little tricky right now because we don't have the hotel rooms and so we are so cautious on spending those funds," she said.

King-Hinds said she knows there are people who believe in the idea of "build it and they will come"—a popular line from the movie *Field of Dreams*. "I personally don't and I believe that we have to be a little pragmatic," she said.

Governor's Office, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; Legend Realty Saipan; and the Torres Brothers' law office. Even Torres' home and vehicle were reportedly searched.

"We have provided them with all the information and access that they have asked for, with the intent of being completely transparent and helpful in the investigation," Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios noted in a press conference Thursday afternoon, during which he affirmed that the FBI was searching Torres' office

She said they are going to build the airport's capacity to welcome international flights, but the question is to what scale.

As for Rota, King-Hinds said there some renewed interest in investments on Rota and that CPA will work aggressively to heed the call of the Rota family. All the priorities are about infrastructure improvements and, with CPA's limited resources, that's going to be a challenge.

"But we are up for it and we are going to roll up our sleeves and work our heart out to make it happen," King-Hinds said.

In December 2018, King-Hinds was elected CPA board chair, replacing longtime chair Jose R. Lifofoi. King-Hinds is the first woman to chair the CPA board.

but did not specify the reason.

An IPI statement released late Thursday said: "First, our companies have nothing to hide and will cooperate with law enforcement authorities. Secondly, we want assure the people of the CNMI that we continue to be law abiding and good corporate citizens who are proud and privileged to be members of the CNMI. Finally, we want assure our employees, their families, vendors, patrons, and residents alike that our companies are intent on succeeding and making the CNMI the jewel of the Pacific for our emerging gaming industry."

FBI

From Page 1

And with the lack of FBI statements that is typical of ongoing investigations, it was not immediately confirmed if the search, as authorized by several warrants, included any interrogations.

Torres' chief of staff, Angel Demapan, who is also the acting press secretary, told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that the FBI's search ended at about 4:30pm last Thursday. The FBI agents reportedly appeared at Torres' office as early as 9am that day.

"The execution of the search warrant at the Office of the Governor was concluded at the close of business, or approximately 4:30pm on Thursday, at which time the bureau turned over the premises back to the [Torres] administration," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*. "To my knowledge, I'm not aware of any interviews that may or may not have been conducted."

Demapan also denied rumors that Torres had left the island.

Agents of the FBI fanned out across Saipan last Thursday to execute several search warrants that included the

ESSAY

From Page 2

each take home \$500, second placers \$250, and third placers \$125. For more information, contact SCPA at 285-1669 or email Tessen at keithallentesen@gmail.com.

CNMI Got Talent 9 deadline extended

Bridge Capital LLC's CNMI's Got Talent 9 audition deadline has been extended to Nov. 12, 2019. To join simply submit your audition in any video format at the Bridge Capital office from Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. Over \$9,000 in prizes will be given away. For more information, call (670) 322-2222 or send an email to talentsearch@banmi.com or visit the website www.cnmigottalent.com. All auditions should be Christmas-themed.

Kagman schools set

PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided.

Please call the any of the three schools at 237-3150 (KAGE), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 237-3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

MHS activities

Marianas High School will be having its first semester Mid-Progress Open House on Nov. 14, 2019, from 4pm to 6pm at the new cafeteria. A Parents Teachers Students Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019, 6pm at the new cafeteria. (PR)

VOX POPULI**Which aspect of the local culture should be preserved?**

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the heightened campaign to preserve the indigenous traditions in the CNMI, we asked the community: If given a choice, which aspect of the CNMI culture should be preserved?

"We should preserve the traditions and teachings of the indigenous people. I was born in an era where my people are exposed to American influence so I feel it is very important to uphold the cultural aspect of it. All my life, I have been speaking English but I try to speak as much in my own language. It connects me more with my own people, my own history. So, for me, it's about the language and the traditions."

—Ray Jr. Deleon Guerrero, JKPL



"All [aspects] are very important. With this weaving that I know, that my dad taught me, the time that I spent with my dad telling stories when he was younger, he used to do this and he was passing it on. So I am super excited if and when I have my own family, that I'm happy to spend my time with my family doing weaving, and I think that keeps us, family, closer by also keeping our culture intact."

—Patricia Matagolai, Kagman



"I think we should preserve all aspects of our culture, especially our language. The generation now...do not really speak our language. We use mostly English now, and our language is dying so we have to keep it alive."

—Troy Laniyo, Chalan Kanoa

"The one thing I want to preserve is going to be the art, which is all the weaving and the formal clothing. I would like to preserve that one because I think it represents our culture a lot more. Other than that, I will say language because...more and more people from our generation [are] slowly forgetting our language and slowly going more into foreign languages, like English."

—Shane Borja, Chalan Kanoa



"I think that we should preserve our language because, without our language, we are going to slowly forget who we are...because our language represents our cultural identity."

—Joanna Villagomez, Koblerville



"The part of our culture that we should preserve the most is the sailing. Since Emma and Pete [of 500 Sails] created a way to make us all learn how to sail and navigate and build canoes, and go on the water and everything like that, I think we should take advantage of that and it is a good opportunity."

—Kianna Reyes, Tuturam

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

CUC: No decision yet on omnibus deal with CPA

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors failed to come to a decision Thursday night whether or not to approve an omnibus settlement agreement with the Commonwealth Ports Authority that is supposed to resolve many of the disputes between them.

The board will, however, meet again tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10am so they can review everything in the draft omnibus settlement agreement, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho last Friday.

He said CUC had a quorum for Thursday's 6pm session, with four members showing up—chair Miranda V. Manglona, vice chair Weston Deleon Guerrero, director Jovita Paulino, and Commonwealth Development Authority chair Ike Perez.

The special session was originally set for Thursday at 10am to discuss only the omnibus settlement deal, but only Manglona and Paulino showed up. This prompted Manglona to reset the session to 6pm that day after she was informed that Deleon Guerrero and Perez would be able to make it.

CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio, and CPA legal counsel Robert T. Torres were present for the 10am meeting. All three, this time with CPA comptroller Sky Hofschneider, attended the 6pm session.

Camacho said the 6pm session was held in executive session, but the board decided outside of the executive session to recess to Tuesday.

"They're reviewing the [draft agreement]. They're still looking at it," he said.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan disclosed in an interview Thursday afternoon that his office has already reviewed the omnibus agreement and determined that it contains no legal issues. The Office of the Attorney General is counsel for CUC.

Last June 18, the CPA board approved the draft CUC-CPA omnibus agreement with some conditions.

The terms of the agreement would basically give CUC permanent easement for use and access to 67 water wells that are on CPA premises; the existing CUC water line transporting the water from the well to the CUC island system; CPA's 20-million-gallon water tank; and the CUC sand filtration system on CPA's premises.

Under the terms of the agreement, CPA will have continuous water supply from the water resources on its premises for free.

CPA will, however, pay a flat rate for sewerline charges.

CPA will pay CUC \$7.2 million for the disputed water charges and penalty. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

VETERANS DAY

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HEALTH PLANS

Prosecution to study man being sentenced in different fed court

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe is considering a psychologist's recommendation to explore the possibility of sentencing in another federal court a habitual offender who stole a gun of a local judge and was found mentally incompetent to proceed with the sentencing.

At a status conference last Thursday, Backe, who is counsel for the U.S. government, said they are going to check what the process is in sentencing Cling Philip Kaipat in another district court.

Kaipat is currently in a medical center in the U.S. mainland.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set another status conference for Nov. 13, 2019 at 1:30pm.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona agreed with Backe's suggestion that psychologist Ashley Christiansen be provided with a copy of Kaipat's plea agreement and the change of plea minute entry.

Manglona informed the parties that U.S. probation officer Gregory Arriola and U.S. marshal Don Hall are to work together to secure therapy sessions for Kaipat upon his release after sentencing.

Christiansen informed the court that Kaipat is unable to participate in Thursday's status conference. He said it

will take advance notice in order for Kaipat to appear telephonically or via video conferencing.

Kaipat's counsel, Colin Thompson, raised concerns about Kaipat traveling from the U.S. mainland to Saipan and his medications.

Hall said their office could accommodate Kaipat but cannot provide him with medicines and therapy.

Christiansen then provided a proposed plan as to when the medications will be administered before and after Kaipat travels.

Last March, the federal court ordered additional 120 days of treatment and evaluation for Kaipat at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in the U.S. mainland. Manglona initially found Kaipat mentally incompetent to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense on Oct. 19, 2016.

Kaipat was committed to MCFP on Jan. 23, 2017. On May 19, 2017, MCFP issued a certificate of competency, establishing that Kaipat was mentally competent to permit the proceedings to move forward.

In April 2018, Manglona ordered another psychiatric or psychological examination.

Following a competency

hearing on Aug. 10, 2018, Manglona, for a second time, found the defendant presently mentally incompetent. The judge then committed him to the custody of the U.S. Attorney General for hospitalization and treatment.

In November 2017, Kaipat pleaded guilty in federal court to possession of a stolen firearm.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Nov. 5, 2015, Kaipat possessed a stolen 9mm Smith and Wesson pistol. Kaipat knew the pistol was stolen because he stole it while burglarizing Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo's home on Saipan.

In that burglary, he also stole a watch, a hunting knife, and \$500 in U.S. currency. Govendo was off-island when the burglary happened.

In the Superior Court case, Kaipat also pleaded guilty to burglary and theft as part of a plea deal. In November 2016, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced him to six years in prison.

The six-year prison sentence, however, will run concurrently with the sentence in Kaipat's conviction in federal court's case. It means that he will serve the six years in prison within whatever prison term the district court will impose on him. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Project Haligi covers 44 utility poles with artwork

Island-themed artwork is spreading across the Marianas with 44 concrete utility poles getting a facelift through Project Haligi.

Project Haligi ("haligi" means pole in the indigenous Chamorro language) was

launched in July 2019 and welcomes volunteer artists to decorate poles on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Over 30 poles on Saipan have been painted by various volunteers, and students on Rota have painted 11 poles.

"As we try to educate our

visitors from abroad about our language and culture, we are beautifying our islands at the same time," said first lady Diann Torres. "Every individual that passes by these poles and recognizes the artwork should bring some hope, joy, and happiness as they go about their daily lives."

Participating artists have been Veronica Mendez-Arriola, Maryann B. Arriola, Regina Frances T. Pangelinan, Natasha Tan, Jinhui Jeong, Abby Racoma, Linda Concepcion-Torres, Meena Benavente, Sheelane Santos, Mark C. Manglona, Domonique N. Deleon Guerrero, and students on Rota.

Paint and other supplies are provided, and applicants are still welcome to participate. Project Haligi is a cooperative effort of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, and other government offices and tourism partners, including the Rota Mayor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, and Tinian Municipal Council. Additional organizing sponsors are Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Tasi Tours, Rotary Club of Saipan, the Department of Corrections, and Pratt & Lambert Paints by Hong Ye Hardware.

"We are so grateful to all

the artists for volunteering their time to spread happiness and inspiration throughout our islands with the Project Haligi artwork," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "There are still many poles to cover and still many image ideas to share, so we encourage all interested individuals to apply today to be a part of the program or to contact our office for more information."

The project aims to beautify about 220 utility poles on all three islands. Pole locations on Saipan are Beach Road, Pale Msgr. Guerrero Rd., Airport Road, and Isa Drive. Lo-

cations on Rota are Pinatang-Park, Tatchok Beach, Teteto Beach, and Guata Beach. Locations on Tinian are Jones Beach, Broadway, San Jose, and Marpo Heights, and Carolinas Heights. Each area has been assigned a respective theme, including ocean, history/culture, flowers, and nature.

Applications and additional details are downloadable at www.mymarianas.com/press-release-reports. Artwork submissions must include Chamorro and Refaluwasch descriptive words. Minors age 11 and older may participate with parental consent and supervision. (PR)



'THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN!'

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation and Joeten Enterprises presents the Super American Circus and featured talent world-famous Blake Wallenda with the tightrope walk. Wallenda is a seventh-generation Wallenda known for their tightrope walk with no safety net and has performed alongside stuntman Evel Knievel. Besides Wallenda, spectators can expect other acts that include a stuntman on the "wheel of danger," aerialists with fire and on silks and a Spanish web, jugglers, comics, a rolla bolla pro, vocalists and a ringmaster. Seven 90-minute shows from Nov. 15 to the 17. Tickets are now available online at www.superamericancircus.com and, by Nov. 6, at all Joeten market locations, Pena House, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, and Iridescent Boutique. Advance buy: \$65 VIP, \$40 general and \$20 children. At door: \$65 VIP, \$50 general, \$30 children. Free kids' tickets are still available at all authorized ticket dealers. Get them while supplies last.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

23 businesses take part in inaugural business expo

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 100 spectators checked out the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's first-ever Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, which featured 23 businesses in all.

Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo said the businesses that participated—all of them members of the Chamber—had the opportunity to showcase their products and services.



MARC A. VENUS

A view of the numerous businesses showcasing their products and services during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

"There has been a lot of networking and the vendors have... been really thankful to be connected with other business and with thea really great turnout," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Laszlo said the Chamber looks forward to future collaborations and events similar to this expo.

Spectators were also given the opportunity to win raffle

prizes provided by the Chamber and the vendors. Each spectator got one ticket upon entering, and they had more opportunities to get more raffle tickets if they visited 10 of the expo vendors.

Attendees also had the chance to view new products, special discounts on products and services for the holidays, and much more that were ex-

clusive to the Business Expo.

A spectator who seemed impressed said the Business Expo looked well handled than the typical job fair or human resource fair. He said he was also glad to see the many businesses that came together and worked with one another through a shared network.

The list of vendors included Budget/Payless Rental Car, U.S. Census, Chiku Chiku, Colorstreet Nails, D&Q Saipan, D&R Visuals, First Hawaiian Bank, I Love Saipan, Island Training Solutions, IT&E, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, N15 Architects, Ocean Ridge Homes, Marianas Health Services, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Pacific Trading Co.y, Pacifica Insurance, Paradise Dental Spa, Rebel-Fi CNMI, Saipan Programming School, Surfrider Hotel, Tahine's Productions, and Takecare Insurance.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
November 11, 2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - October 9, 2019
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- REPORTS
 - Executive Director's /Loan Manager's Report
 - DCD Funds' Status Report
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Loan Matter
- NEW BUSINESS
 - New Loan Applications
- OTHER MATTERS
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

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CUC warns of wastewater odor

There is currently a sewage odor in the Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico, Lower Base, Lower Navy Hill, and Garapan areas and that is expected to continue intermittently throughout the year in November, December, and January 2020.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is also planning on a series of rehabilitative improvements to the treatment process over the next year, which will be critical for the long-term viability of the plant to handle the large amount of new development on the island. The outcome of those improvements will be an odor-free treatment facility.

At present, the cause of the sewer odor is due to the reactivation of the aerators in basin I at the Sadog Tasi Treatment Plant and the startup of the digester aerator unit following a draw-down or decanting of excess effluent. The temporary clarifier currently running needs to allow additional sludge to build a sludge layer on the bottom of the basin to properly capture and draw the waste sludge from the unit. This process may take up to three months or more, depending on the timing of the treatment process

changes. As a result, there will be reduced odors and improved effluent quality once it goes operational.

CUC is also working on lessening the odor around the treatment plant to prevent emission of the odor to the neighboring areas. CUC will be looking at alternatives for masking the smell of the treatment process which is not hazardous to people—just unpleasant to smell.

There is also a sewage odor in San Antonio and Koblerville that is expected to persist due to a mechanical failure of its aerators at the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant. Parts are expected to arrive on island in a few weeks. Upon the arrival of the parts, wastewater operators will then repair the aerator. As a result, the sewage odor will improve. The units are at the end of their useful lives and new units are being ordered as part of a major upgrade.

CUC appreciates the public's patience throughout this process and will continue to work to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. (CUC)



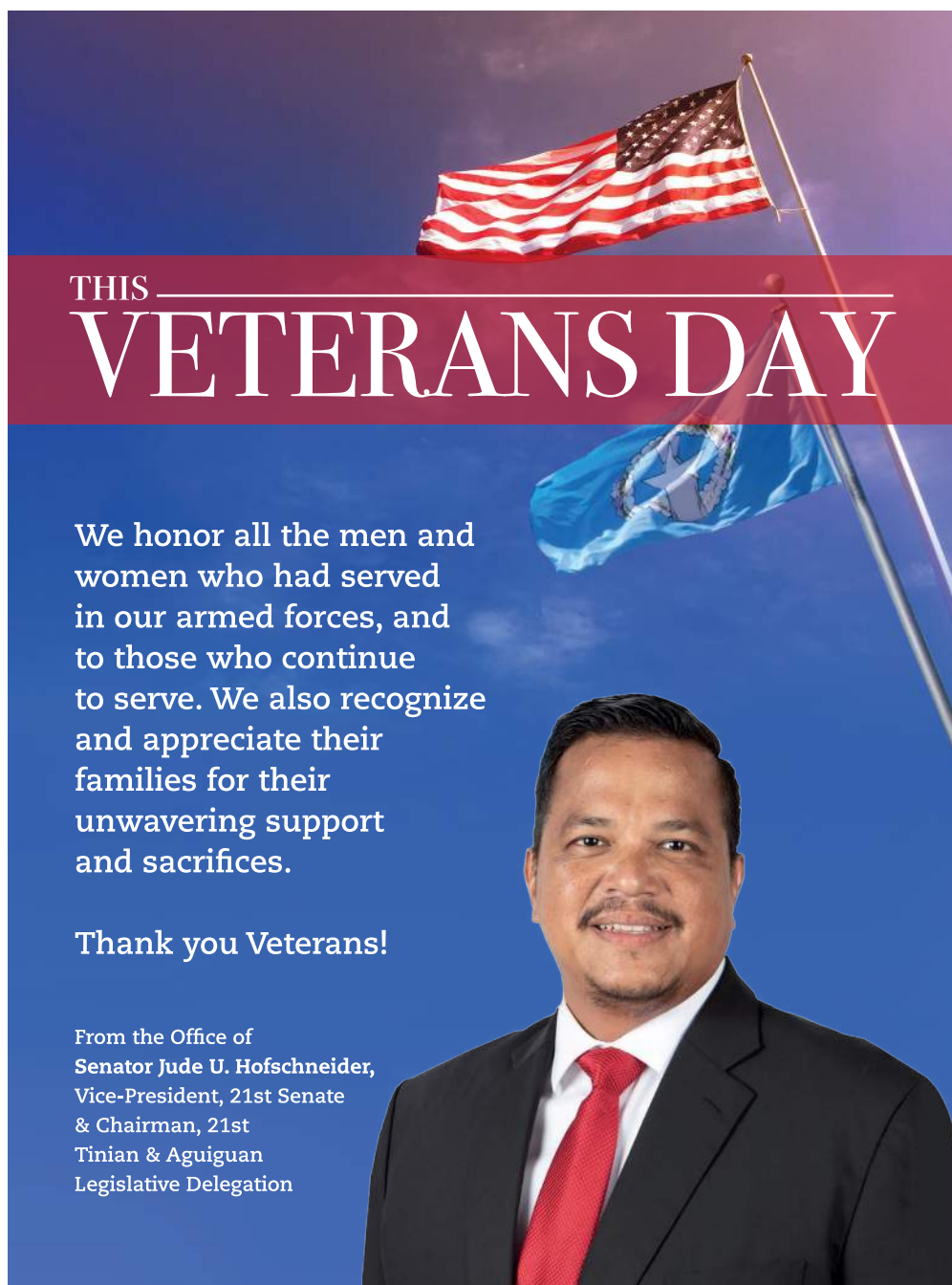
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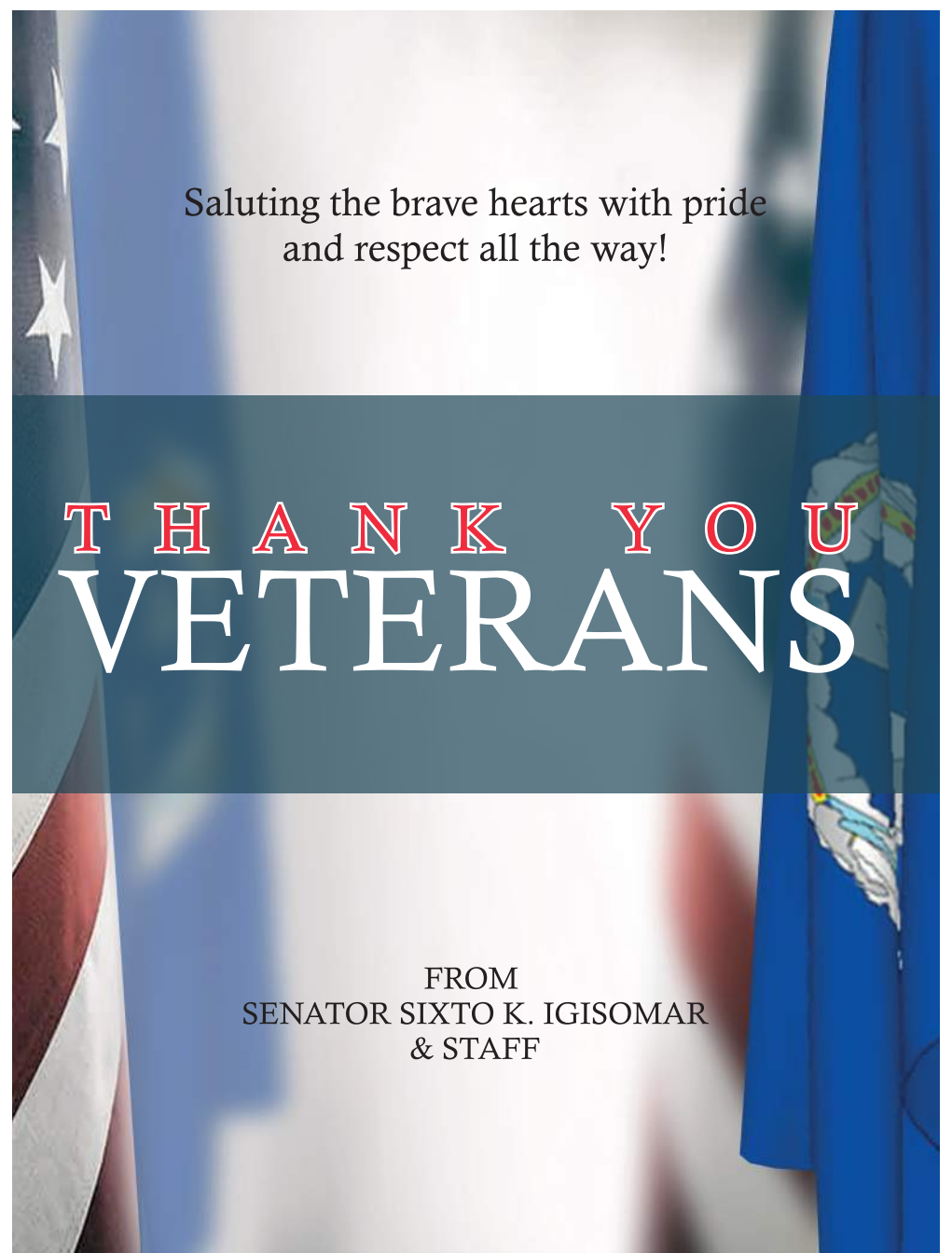


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We honor all the men and women who had served in our armed forces, and to those who continue to serve. We also recognize and appreciate their families for their unwavering support and sacrifices.

Thank you Veterans!

From the Office of
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider,
Vice-President, 21st Senate
& Chairman, 21st
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**THANK YOU
VETERANS**

FROM
SENATOR SIXTO K. IGISOMAR
& STAFF

Opinion

Hafa Adahi

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A massacre in Mexico requires an American response. Here is what it should be

Like all Americans, we're sickened by Monday's brutal murder of three women and six children—almost certainly by members of a Mexican drug cartel—as they traveled by car along a highway near Bavispe in the state of Sonora, about 300 miles southwest of El Paso, Texas.

And given the increasing brazenness of drug cartels south of the border, we understand President Donald Trump's offer via Twitter to send U.S. troops to Mexico to help the federal authorities there “wage WAR on the drug cartels and wipe them off the face of the earth.”

We believe the president sincerely wants to end the horrible gang violence and organized crime that has led hundreds of thousands of families from Mexico and Central America over the past several decades to seek asylum in the United States.

But we also believe that many of the policies that his administration has pursued have likely fueled the violence and put more people—including lawful residents of Mexico and other Central American countries, like the nine murdered members of the LeBaron family—at greater risk.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has made it clear that Mexico will not accept Trump's offer of troops, saying Tuesday that the Mexican authorities “have to act independently and according to our constitution, and in line with our tradition of independence and sovereignty.”

That is understandable. But all this raises the question of what can be done to finally end the drug cartels' and other organized gangs' reign of terror in Mexico and Central America's northern triangle nations of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador?

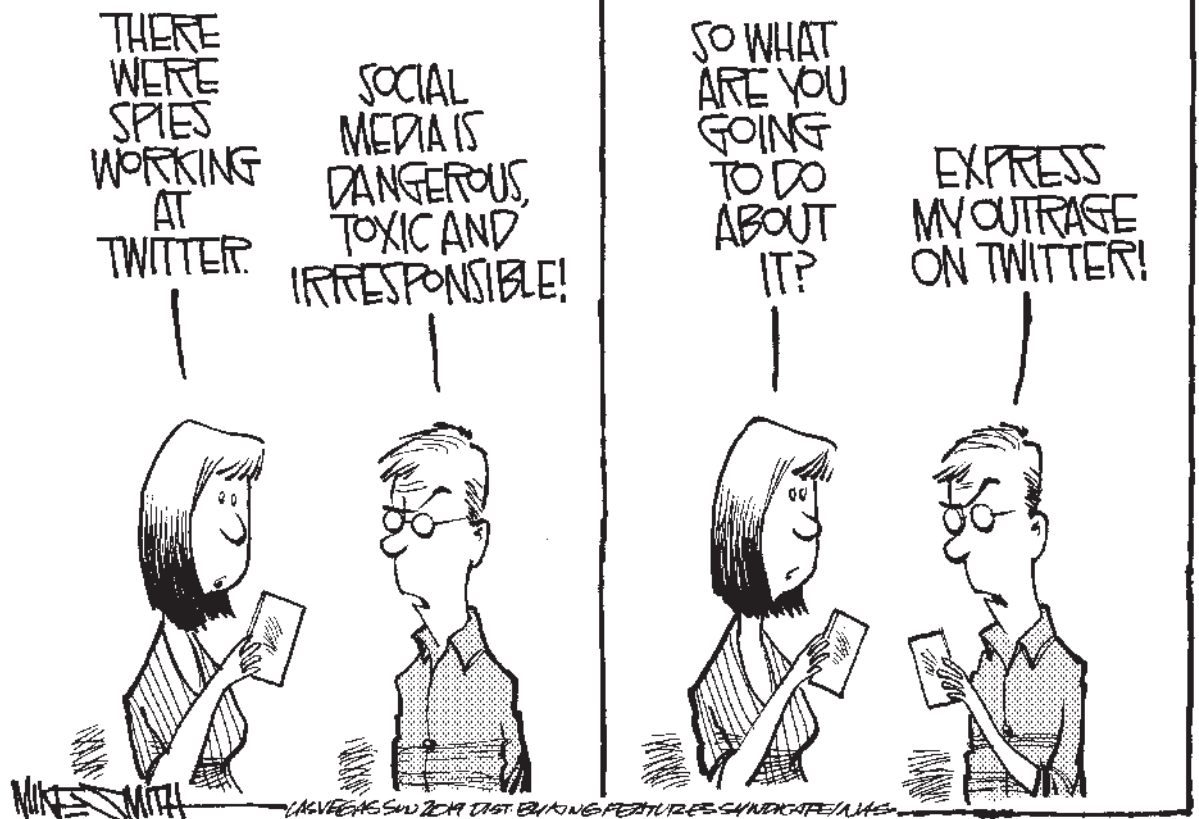
As our Alfredo Corchado reported Tuesday, while Mexican authorities are calling the killing of the nine LeBaron family members “a case of mistaken identity,” it's possible that the women and children were targeted because members of their family “have over the years been outspoken in their condemnation of criminal groups that hold sway over a wide swath of northern Mexico.” Corchado's reporting uncovered that the family has taken “unorthodox measures to shield themselves from extortion attempts and kidnapping,” including taking up arms to “defend their community in the outskirts of Janos, Chihuahua.”

So how can the U.S. help Mexican authorities stem the rising tide of violence and terror?

First, it's clear that President Lopez Obrador's campaign promise of using “hugs not guns” to address the break down of Mexico's social fabric and the rule of law was considered a sign of weakness by the cartels. Last month's decision by the Mexican government to release Ovidio Guzman Lopez, the son of drug kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, to prevent further bloodshed after eight people were killed in a botched raid in Culiacan has also emboldened the cartels.

But do the high-profile arrests and extradition to the U.S. of

See MASSACRE on Next Page



When the Berlin Wall fell

Thirty years ago, the wall dividing Berlin and Europe came tumbling down, inaugurating a period of dizzying change and unprecedented opportunity. Within months, Germany was reunited, Soviet dominance of Central and Eastern Europe collapsed and Soviet communism and the USSR itself disintegrated. The Cold War, which had split Europe for more than four decades, had ended.

In its stead, a far more optimistic and hopeful future beckoned. A continent torn asunder by two bloody world wars and frozen into two competing blocs now faced the possibility of becoming whole, free and at peace. The United States, as the world's sole remaining superpower, played a leading role in helping bring that about.

It all started with the unification of Germany. While weary neighbors feared the reemergence of a strong, united Germany at the center of the new Europe, Washington pushed to complete the task within a year of the first breaches of the Berlin Wall. Germany would remain a member of NATO and also committed to revamp the European Union by further deepening economic and monetary integration. Both helped reassure other European nations that a newly powerful Germany would be firmly embedded in European and transatlantic institutions.

With East and West Germany becoming one, the next step was to bridge Europe's economic, political and military divides. The initial focus was to improve European security without which there could not be the necessary political and economic transformation. A series of arms control agreements were negotiated with the United States, the Soviet Union and European members of NATO and the former Warsaw Pact, ending the military stand-off in Europe and enhancing regional security.

Importantly, NATO agreed to open its doors to new members, thus encouraging the countries of eastern and central Europe to undertake the hard but necessary work of transforming their economies, domestic politics and militaries in preparation for membership. Like NATO, the European Union also moved to encourage the economic and political transformation of central and east European countries by offering membership to those countries that had fulfilled the necessary reforms.

Within 15 years of the Berlin Wall coming down, Europe had seemingly fulfilled the bright promise of the heady days of jubilant crowds bringing down the wall. Europe was becoming whole, with most countries having joined NATO and the European Union and others knocking on their doors. It was peaceful, as successful intervention ended the wars that had followed Yugoslavia's disintegration. The single European market and the introduction of the euro had brought prosperity to many, and democracy and freedom thrived throughout the continent.

Europe's transformation was a historic accomplishment.

Now, much of the hope and optimism that made this possible

By **IVO DAALDER**

Chicago Tribune

Ivo Daalder is president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to NATO.



has disappeared. The financial and euro zone crises of 2008-10 led to a steep economic decline from which many countries have yet to recover. In its wake, populism and nativism are challenging democratic and civic norms in a growing number of countries. Britain's decision to leave the EU both deprived the union of a key economic and political member and has paralyzed proceedings in Brussels for too long.

Europe is also buffeted by destabilizing forces from beyond its borders. Russia has reemerged as a significant security threat, both militarily through its actions in Ukraine, Syria and North Africa, and politically through its cyberattacks and election interference. Turkey has turned away from Europe and from democracy, and its actions have further destabilized the Middle East. Growing numbers of migrants are seeking to cross the Mediterranean in search of a better future.

In the past, Europe could count on a strong and stabilizing American presence to help address these challenges. But that, too, has changed. Washington's ability to effect positive change in Europe has declined over the years, challenged by increasing demands at home, a refocusing of attention to the Middle East and Asia, and growing competition from a rising China and newly assertive Russia.

President Donald Trump's “America First” policies have only accelerated the decline of U.S. influence in Europe. His active opposition to the European project that helped transform the continent, combined with his reluctance to embrace America's longstanding commitment to NATO and European security, have created growing doubts about America's trustworthiness and standing.

When the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, Europe had a United States willing and able to help guide its future, which it did in building a Europe whole, free and at peace. Now, Europe will have to decide its own future. It can recommit to unity and play the strong and stabilizing role its collective power and potential make possible. Or it can stand aside and allow divisions and disagreements to deepen and nefarious forces from within and without seek to control its destiny.

Thirty years ago, Europe made the right choice. Will it do so again?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

This boomer is OK with ‘OK boomer’

I tell my millennial editor I want to write about this “hey boomer” thing.

I flirt with the notion of asking her if she learned about hey, boomer from Fortnite (which I have since realized is an online video game about survival). But I refrain from the question because I prefer to avoid revealing that I, a man who once thought he knew pretty much everything, seem to know so little about so much anymore. I’m late yet again to the latest party—and this time, the party is all about the hey boomer app, or meme, or hashtag, or whatever it is. But better late than never, right?

“It’s actually OK, boomer,” my editor says, explaining that OK, boomer is an edgier, dissier, viral version of OK, grandpa. It’s a way to wave off an entire generation of older people who just don’t get it.

I’m tempted to dismiss OK, boomer but the term has become ubiquitous while I was taking yet another of those naps I love/need so much.

It’s already pervasive enough to have spawned a line of T-shirts and hoodies. It’s been referenced by “influencers” on apps I’ve never heard of; by Chloe Swarbrick, a 25-year-old politician in New Zealand I’d also never heard of before she casually dropped the phrase on the Parliament floor after being heckled; and by conservative radio host Bob Lonsberry, also unknown to me until he tweeted that boomer is “the N-word of ageism.”

I may not have noticed it until now, but millennials and those even younger young adults known as Gen Z certainly are paying attention to us boomers. They’ve been paying attention all along

from that enveloping, ever-expanding, intelligence-gathering parallel universe into which they were born, and where they continue to live despite sci-fi-sized student loan debt. They know all about the significance of the record-breaking and disruptive bulge in the post-World War II birthrate that made us boomers the next-to-the-Greatest-Generation ... generation.

While we boomers numbered 76 million, there are 83 million millennials and 65 million members of Gen Z—and seemingly every last one of them knows us better than we give them credit for (and vice versa).

OK, boomer is as dismissive of us as we are of millennials and Gen Zers. And that doesn’t always sit well with us boomers. I mean, who do these kids think they are? Who are these brats in those noise-cancelling/other-people-cancelling/cancel-culture-cancelling headphones to brand as clueless an entire generation who wore jeans and long hair not as style statements—like millennials and their tats—but as revolutionary badges of honor?

I know, I know: Millennials and Gen Zers have heard it all before. But it bears repeating that we stopped a wretched war and got rid of an even worse president. We gave you Woodstock, we say. We gave you weed. Yes, we also gave you disco. But don’t you realize all the hand-to-hand combat we had to endure in order to take control of our parents’ popular culture, the one in which has-been vaudevillians and rebooted radio stars dominated the three TV networks? Our parents were men and women who, after all, had endured a Depression and won World War II; they were not about to abandon Peggy Lee and surrender to the

By **KEVIN RIORDAN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Beatles without a battle.

The fact is that neither my people nor the people flipping us off with OK, boomer want to own the existential fear of seeing ourselves in each other. Isn’t such a realization a place where hope for the future goes to die? Thus, millennials say OK, boomer, and boomers brand these younger generations’ breathtaking digital dexterity and their hyper-fluency in the popular and political cultures as superficial. Just as we did when we were their age.

Face it, fellow boomers: Millennials and Gen Zers know us well. Too well. They can see the seams in the historical finery with which we often like to drape ourselves. They can see through the costume to the unfinished business, the papered-over problems, the kicked cans, the compromises, the cover-ups. They can and do (and should) call us out on our cop-outs and our humongous, or perhaps the word is ginormous, hubris.

Barack Obama is one of us, we say.

Yes, they reply. And so’s Donald Trump.

Dude, we are so busted.

The foolhardy campaign against ‘endless wars’

Barack Obama and Donald Trump are diametrically opposed figures, representing the categorical rejection of the other for his supporters, yet they share significant foreign-policy DNA.

They both defined themselves in opposition to George W. Bush’s foreign policy. Obama probably wouldn’t have defeated Hillary Clinton for the 2008 Democratic nomination if she hadn’t voted for the Iraq War and if he didn’t speak out against it at the time. Likewise, Trump outpaced all his 2016 GOP rivals in denouncing our Middle East commitments.

Obama represented the internationalist left, while Trump is the champion of the populist right, and there are important policy differences between the two (Obama cut the Iran nuclear deal; Trump withdrew from it). Yet, in his pullback from the Syrian border, exposing our Kurdish allies to a Turkish invasion, Trump now has his own version of Obama’s foolhardy pullout from Iraq that created the opening for the rise of ISIS.

The cost of Trump’s decision is a betrayal of the Kurds, a worsening relationship with Turkey, a possible lifeline for ISIS and a boost to the influence of Russia, which should be able to leverage it for continued strategic gains in the region.

The pullback has managed, astonishingly enough, to alienate

both the Kurds and Turkey from the United States. Usually, given the historic enmity between the two, it’s possible to alienate only one at a time. After we dumped them, the Kurds have fallen into the arms of the Assad regime in Syria, while Turkey will be as hostile to the U.S. as ever once Congress gets done trying to punish it for its invasion.

Just like Obama’s withdrawal from Iraq, Trump’s pullback in Syria is a belated reaction to the Iraq War. Obviously, there is no political support on the right or left for invading and occupying a Middle Eastern country again. But there’s a vast distance between the height of the occupation of Iraq, when we had 150,000 troops fighting a war of counterinsurgency, and our minimal commitment in Syria aimed at creating and supporting a proxy force to do the hard fighting against ISIS.

To throw both the Syria and Iraq interventions together under the rubric of “endless war” is to fail to make distinctions. It’s senseless to oppose a relatively cost-free action in Syria that has succeeded in its own terms (the ISIS caliphate has been defeated) because the Iraq War was fought for years at a high cost with dubious results. It’d be like opposing the invasion of Grenada because the invasion of Normandy required so much blood and treasure.

stifle migration from Central America has contributed to the spike in criminal activity. The recent crackdown, he said, “leads to maldistribution of troops (in terms of both geography and tasks) that could otherwise be engaged in tasks related to public security.”

Dylan Corbett, executive director of the Hope Border Institute in El Paso, said “Drug-related violence is spiking throughout Mexico.” By the end of October, he explained “there were nearly 1,300 homicides in the border city of Juarez alone, just a stone’s throw from El Paso. But narco-related violence is entrenched in Mexico and has claimed over 200,000 lives in the last decade alone.”

One of many deep-seated problems, according to Corbett, is that “major elements” within local law enforcement and the Mexican military are “heavily invested in drug trafficking.” The predictable result is “fears about family safety because of corrupt local police, economic productivity lost to rampant extortion, the erosion of honest journalism due to threats, and the inability to access basic social services because of widespread graft.”

We agree with Corbett that the deployment of troops will not solve these problems because it does not address their root causes. “Mexico still has a long way to go in building transpar-

By **RICH LOWRY**
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



The long-standing American military reflex is to win and go home, but it’s rare that even the most clear-cut victory is so neat. We won a decisive conventional military victory in World War II in Europe, and we still have troops in Germany. The first Gulf War is supposed to be the model of a rigorously limited commitment, but it still resulted in a no-fly zone over Iraq, the creation of an autonomous region for the Kurds in the north and a constant effort to enforce U.N. sanctions.

Nor is getting out as clean as advertised. Obama triumphantly exited Iraq, only to have to go back in when things spun out of control. If Trump wants to be done with Syria, it might not be done with him.

MASSACRE

From Page 10

kingpins like El Chapo actually weaken the cartels? Jake Dizard, a fellow with the Mexico Security Initiative at The University of Texas, is skeptical. “The U.S. should continue to provide intelligence on criminal groups to Mexico,” he us, but “U.S. law enforcement should recognize the counterproductive nature of playing whack-a-mole with cartel leaders and help Mexico develop a more comprehensive, civilian-led security strategy.”

What would such a strategy look like? All the experts we spoke with agree that a joint effort to crack down on illegal U.S. gun sales to Mexico should be a high priority. Patrick McNamara, a history professor at the University of Minnesota and an expert witness on more than 100 asylum cases, says the U.S. should also “stop obsessing about Central American refugees and allow Mexico’s new National Guard to be deployed to protect Mexican civilians in northern Mexico” instead of stopping peaceful migrants from heading north.

Dizard agreed with McNamara that U.S. pressure on Mexico to






ent, democratic institutions which guarantee safety and justice and root out corruption at the local level.”

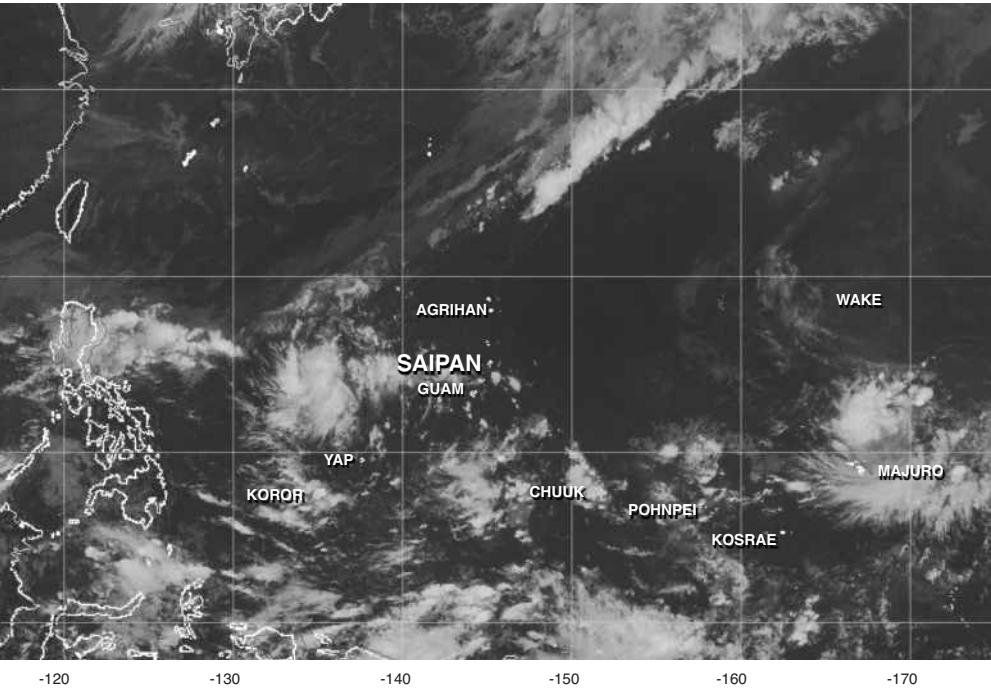
Meanwhile, the lack of economic opportunities further fuels the cartels. “What (economic) growth there has been has largely come about without equality. Until the deep inequality in Mexico is addressed and young people are given real economic opportunity, it will be impossible to eliminate violence.”

President Lopez Obrador was elected last year largely due to his pledge to address the economic inequities, systemic corruption and crumbling rule of law that last year resulted in a record 33,000 homicide investigations with roughly four out of five cases unsolved.

Building a wall at America’s southern border or denying asylum for those fleeing the violence in Mexico and Central America won’t address the root causes. Nor would it have protected the LeBaron family. After all, they were murdered in Mexico. But rebuilding civil society where the cartels now rule will address the core problem. That is the political—and moral—imperative that has tragically come into focus this week.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:05 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

A large but rather weak circulation is centered northeast of Yap near 10N140E, slightly west of where it was 24 hours ago. The Marianas are positioned on the northeast flank of this system, resulting in moderate southeast winds, mostly cloudy skies, and scattered showers for the region. Radar shows most of the showers in Guam and Rota coastal waters, and decreasing in coverage. Combined seas at the buoys have ranged between 3 and 5 feet overnight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Showers	63° / 55°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	57° / 34°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 74°
London	Showers	48° / 37°
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 60°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Cloudy	64° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
New York	Sunny	42° / 30°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	46° / 41°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Rome	Showers	61° / 52°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 46°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 36°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	57° / 41°
Tokyo	Sunny	70° / 50°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	60° / 40°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:57 AM	LOW TIDE	0.13
7:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.59
12:54 PM	LOW TIDE	0.66
6:35 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Tuesday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:54 AM	5:00 PM
Tuesday	-	5:43 AM	5:40 PM
Wednesday	-	6:35 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	-	7:28 AM	7:09 PM
Friday	-	8:24 AM	8:00 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019															
DEPARTURES								ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)								GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA117		9:15am	9:55am	Daily				UA174		7:30am	8:10am	Daily			
UA105		6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4				UA104		4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)								BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN							
7C3451		3:20am	6:30am	Daily				7C3452		9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
								7C3452		10:05pm	2:30am+1	3			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)								SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN							
TW308		2:05am	6:05am	Daily				OZ6233		8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6			
OZ626		2:10am	6:10am	1				OZ623		8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7			
OZ626		2:50am	6:25am	3, 7				7C3402		10:10am	3:30pm	Daily			
OZ626		2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6				OZ625		7:30pm	1:00am+1	7			
7C3403		4:35am	8:35am	Daily				TW307		7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily			
OZ6243		3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6				OZ625		8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
OZ624		3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7				7C3404		10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily			
7C3401		4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily											
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)								SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN							
3U8648		6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647		10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)								HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN							
JD396		7:30am	12:05pm	1				JD395		8:05am	3:30pm	4			
JD396		4:50pm	7:55pm	4				JD395		8:50pm	5:00am+1	7			
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)								GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN							
3U8646		4:30am	7:50am	2, 6				3U8645		8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)								BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN							
MU764		1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7				MU763		4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)								MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/701		2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN				UA184/174		12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM			
OZ626/701		2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				OZ702/625		12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN			
UA117/183		9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM				OZ702/625		12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN			
UA117/193		9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				UA192/174		10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR			
								UA184/174		10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			
								OZ704/6233		11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN			
								OZ704/623		11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN			
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)								HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/721		2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN				OZ746/6233		12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN			
OZ626/721		2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				OZ746/623		12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN			
UO43		5:35am	8:25am	1				OZ722/625		1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN			
UO43		5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7				OZ722/625		1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN			
OZ6243/9661		3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN				UO42		6:25pm	1:20am+1	7			
OZ624/9661		3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN				UO42		9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6			
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>															
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.															
SAIPAN TO ROTA								1203							
FLIGHT #		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				1204		9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily			
1301		7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily				1205		10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
1302		11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily				1206		11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
1303		4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily				1207		12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily			
								1208		1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
								1209		2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
								1210		3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
								1211		4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
								1212		5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
								1212		6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
ROTA TO SAIPAN								TINIAN TO SAIPAN							
FLIGHT #		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				FLIGHT #		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY			
3101		8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily				2102		7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily			
3102		1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				2103		8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily			
3103		4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				2104		9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily			
ROTA TO GUAM								2105		10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily			
FLIGHT #		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				2106		11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily			
3401		12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				2107		12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily			
GUAM TO ROTA								2108		1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily			
FLIGHT #		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				2109		2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily			
4301		1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				2110		3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily			
SAIPAN TO TINIAN								2111		4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily			
FLIGHT #		DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				2112		5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily			
1201		7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				2113		6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily			
1202		8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily											

Indigenous Cultural Expo

PHOTOS By IVA MAURIN



Registration at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Community members enjoy a full day of free tasting of coconut-based sweets at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Traditional cooking is done in the morning in preparation for the fiesta that will be happening in the afternoon at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center



The Lady Diann Torres Foundation booth demonstrates how to make tortillas during the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Community members check out the Guma Esperanza booth at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Staff of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library pose for a photo between providing information to interested community members on Chamorro and Carolinian history at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and



Locally sourced and handcrafted jewelries were also demonstrated at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Participants try their hand at the weaving demonstration booth at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Demonstration on weaving baskets at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Intricate hats made from woven young coconut leaves are shown at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Weaving a traditional skirt takes about 45 minutes, depending on the size, at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Children get to pet chickens, baby pigs, and goats at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



Children are treated to a free face-painting session at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.



The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation offer free paddling experience at the Indigenous Cultural Expo and Kantan Isla concert last Saturday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Club 200



More salsa dancing at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



Game winners at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



Joseph Caranto and Gemma Batusin won the best dancers of the night award at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser's third major prize of two roundtrip tickets to any U.S. destination went to City Trust Bank's Ben Kaneshi.

IVA MAURIN



One of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser's second major prize of a \$10,000 shopping spree went to Northern Marianas College's Queanna Sablan.

IVA MAURIN



One of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser's second major prize of a \$10,000 shopping spree went to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Daniel Shead.

IVA MAURIN



The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter recognizes Disaster Action team member and volunteer Richard Defan, right, at the Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



E-Land president Matthew Park, center, receives a plaque of appreciation from the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for the enormous role E-Land played during the relief distribution operations conducted by the Red Cross on the islands following Super Typhoon Yutu. The recognition was held at the Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter presents a recognition certificate to board member Jean Sablan, center, at the Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



The Dunn family won the costume contest at the Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Club 200 in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



Jasper Van Der Maas, center, receives a plaque of appreciation from the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, on behalf of his father, Erick Van Der Maas, for the big role the Marianas Business Plaza played during the relief operations conducted following Super Typhoon Yutu. The recognition was held at the Club 200 "Latin Nights" fundraiser last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

Ex-FSM envoy conferred with Japanese imperial honors

TOKYO, Japan—The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation has extended its congratulations to Ambassador Kasio Mida Sr., the former Federated States of Micronesia's ambassador to Japan for being bestowed The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, by Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The honor is one of the highest awards that can be given to non-Japanese citizens for their service to promote good relations with Japan.

APIC is a private foundation based in Tokyo, Japan, that develops programs and initiatives to strengthen relations between Japan and the nations and people of the Caribbean and Pacific Islands.

Kasio Mida wears medals signifying Japan's highest imperial honor, The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

MOEKO KITA/APIC



Kasio Mida and his wife, Ginger Porter Mida, who is postmaster general of the Federated States of Micronesia.

MOEKO KITA/APIC

Mida is the first citizen of the FSM, and the other nations of the northwest Micronesia region, to be awarded The Order of the Rising Sun.

"There are few people more deserving of this high honor than Ambassador Mida. He has long been an active proponent of close ties between Japan and the FSM," said

Ambassador Peter Yoshiyasu Sato, APIC's president and a career diplomat in Japan's foreign service. "Everyone who knows Ambassador Mida agrees with me."

Following the presentation of the award, Mida had an audience with Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace on Nov. 7.

APIC hosted a dinner in honor of Mida on Nov. 8 at The Tokyo Club, the oldest social club in Japan.

Mida served as FSM Ambassador in Tokyo from 2004-2008. He was also nonresident ambassador to the People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea. He previously served as FSM consul general in Honolulu from 1986 to 2004. After Tokyo, he served as chief of staff to FSM President Emanuel Mori.

Currently, Mida is an Officer of the FSM-Japan Friendship Society, which promotes friendly relations between FSM and Japan and supports Japan's initiatives in the FSM. He has also just become the APIC representative in FSM, at the request of Sato.

Mida is a graduate of Xavier High School in his native Chuuk state, and of Rockhurst College in the United States. He is married to the former Ginger Porter of Pohnpei state. She currently serves as FSM postmaster general. They have nine children. (PR)

USCIS proposes to adjust fees to meet operational needs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Homeland Security will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Federal Register* to adjust the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Immigration examinations fee account fee schedule.

Fees collected and deposited into the IEFA fund nearly 96% of USCIS' budget. Unlike most government agencies, USCIS is fee-funded. Federal law requires USCIS to conduct biennial fee reviews and recommend necessary fee adjustments to ensure recovery of the full cost of administering the nation's immigration laws, adjudicating applications and petitions, and providing the

necessary infrastructure to support those activities.

"USCIS is required to examine incoming and outgoing expenditures, just like a business, and make adjustments based on that analysis. This proposed adjustment in fees would ensure more applicants cover the true cost of their applications and minimizes subsidies from an already over-extended system," said Ken Cuccinelli, acting director of USCIS. "Furthermore, the adjudication of immigration applications and petitions requires in-depth screening, incurring costs that must be covered by the agency, and this proposal accounts for our operational needs and better

aligns our fee schedule with the costs of processing each request."

The rule proposes adjusting USCIS IEFA fee schedules by a weighted average increase of 21% to ensure full cost recovery. Current fees would leave the agency underfunded by approximately \$1.3 billion per year.

The proposed fee rule accounts for increased costs to adjudicate immigration benefit requests, detect and deter immigration fraud, and thoroughly vet applicants, petitioners, and beneficiaries.

USCIS last updated its fee structure in FY 2017, by a weighted average increase of 21%. (USCIS)

USCIS sets \$10 fee for H-1B visa registration

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday a final rule that will require a \$10 non-refundable fee for each H-1B registration submitted by petitioning employers, once it implements the electronic registration system. The registration fee is part of an agency-wide effort to modernize and more efficiently process applications to live or work in the United States.

The H-1B program allows companies in the United States to temporarily employ foreign workers in occupations that require the application of a body of highly specialized knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty, or its equivalent.

Upon implementation of the electronic registration system, petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption,

will first have to electronically register with USCIS during a designated registration period, unless the requirement is suspended.

"This effort will help implement a more efficient and effective H-1B cap selection process," said USCIS Acting Director Ken Cuccinelli. "The electronic registration system is part of an agency-wide initiative to modernize our immigration system while deterring fraud, improving vetting procedures and strengthening program integrity."

The final rule, Registration Fee Requirement for Petitioners Seeking To File H-1B Petitions on Behalf of Cap-Subject Aliens, is effective Dec. 9, 2019, and the fee will be required when registrations are submitted. USCIS is fee-funded, and this non-refundable fee will support the new electronic registration system to make the H-1B cap selection

process more efficient for both petitioners and the agency.

USCIS is slated to implement the registration process for the fiscal year 2021 H-1B cap selection process, pending completed testing of the system. The agency will announce the implementation timeframe and initial registration period in the *Federal Register* once a formal decision has been made, and USCIS will offer ample notice to the public in advance of implementing the registration requirement.

USCIS published a notice of proposed rulemaking highlighting a registration fee on Sept. 4, 2019, which included a 30-day public comment period. USCIS received only 22 comments during that time, and has considered all submissions and offered public responses ahead of announcing the final rule, which is effective on Dec. 9. (USCIS)

Domenech to visit USVI, Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Doug Domenech, Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Nik Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs, will be in the U.S. Virgin Islands this week from Nov. 12 to 14, on the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas, to meet with local federal partners for discussions on hurricane disaster recovery efforts, follow-up on OIA funding provided for the Office of Disaster Recovery, and review other disaster-related efforts.

"I look forward to seeing what progress has been made with respect to hurricane disaster recovery," said

Domenech. "We had fruitful discussions with Gov. [Albert] Bryan [Jr.] and his team when they visited Washington, D.C. last week and we look forward to seeing the actual progress made on the ground."

Federal partners with whom Domenech will be meeting include Federal Emergency Management Agency joint field office director Jaqueline Heyliger, and local business entities such as the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce, and the Virgin Islands Hotel Association. Domenech will also meet with National Park Service superintendent Gregory Camacho, to follow-up on interagency matters between the Virgin Islands government

and the National Park Service.

While in the Caribbean, Domenech will also stop in Puerto Rico for meetings with the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico. Domenech represents the Department of the Interior on the board of Conservation Trust, a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to secure functional and healthy ecosystems in the territory.

For more information on the Office of Insular Affairs, visit www.doi.gov/oia or follow Domenech at @ASIIAD-domenech. For more information on the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico visit <http://www.fideicomiso.org/home.html>. (PR)

US Naval Base Visitor Control Center to begin veteran pre-enrollment services

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Naval Base Guam Visitor Control Center Contractor Services Office will provide veteran pre-enrollment services on Tuesday and Thursday beginning Nov. 12 to Dec. 12.

Veterans and eligible caregivers must bring:

■ Veterans Health Information Card and/or Letter of eligibility

■ Completed SECNAV Form 5512/1

The hours of operation are from 7am to 10:30am and noon to 3:30pm. The

office is closed from 11am to 12pm.

These days are specifically designated for veteran pre-enrollment services.

Contractors will be seen by appointment only and may schedule appointments via email at nbg.vcc@fe.navy.mil or visit the VCC.

The services are part of the upcoming changes authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act.

Section 621 of the NDAA authorizes privileges at the commissary, Military Service Exchange, and certain Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facilities for Purple Heart recipients, veterans with service-connected disabilities, those who have been prisoners of war, and registered primary or family caregivers.

Section 626 requires that the Defense secretary establish

procedures, by which eligible surviving spouses and other next-of-kin, may obtain unescorted access to military installations in order to receive benefits to which they may be entitled to by law or policy. Both sections are effective Jan. 1, 2020.

In order for eligible persons to avail of the privileges they must obtain a VHIC or be issued a letter to specify eligible caregivers, both of which are an approved credential for requesting installation access.

Veterans with questions regarding the veteran pre-enrollment services are encouraged to contact the VCC at 339-6217/5208/1280/1380. (PR)

New Store Opens in CK

PHOTOS By BEA CABRERA



The produce section of Payless SuperFresh and Truckload Store carries a wide variety of fresh produce and healthy options for vegetarians and vegans.



The Grab and Go section of the Payless SuperFresh and Truckload Store carries delicious and healthy choices for people on the go.



Different kinds of cheeses are one of the many items regularly available at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa.



Triple J friends and guests at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store grand opening held last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.



Triple J friends and guests at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store grand opening last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.

Hyatt Regency Saipan chef Zen Tomokane and executive chef Hartmut Kehm are pleased with the new and many selection of food items and ingredients at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in Chalan Kanoa.



Triple J chair and CEO Robert Jones gives a welcome speech at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store grand opening last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.



Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios was one of the guest speakers at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store grand opening last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.



Triple J friends and guests at the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store grand opening held last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.



Triple J Truckload Store items fill the shelves for the grand opening of the Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.



Triple J Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos said the meat section carries certified Angus beef that is guaranteed fresh and reasonably priced.

Business

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store now open

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrera@saipan.com
CORRESPONDENT

Triple J Enterprises celebrated the grand opening of its new business Saipan Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store last Friday in Chalan Kanoa.

The store combines a grocery store that carries a strong organic produce section, meat and poultry, cheeses, a butchery and a deli along with the company's wholesale business that sells products from K-Mart.

The fusion of the two Triple J businesses in one location aims to give customers a one-stop shopping experience and thus having the opportunity to stand out and get a step up on the competition by giving the community more choices.

The grand opening was attended by Triple J management and employees, government and elected officials, business people, and local residents who were all looking forward to the business' normal operations.

Triple J Enterprises, Inc. CEO and chair Robert H. Jones saw the need to open Payless SuperFresh.

"In 2010, Triple J Enterprises

opened Super Fresh Market but it happened during the downturns of the economy and we pulled back for a while. We concentrated on wholesale items from K-Mart and sold them in the Truckload Store," he said.

"But now, we see a much stronger need by the community for a store like this and now we are back in the retail business... we thank the government and its agencies, construction crew, vendors, and Triple J employees that helped Triple J put together a great collaboration... we are looking forward to giving great service and great prices here," he said.

Before the grand opening, Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store had a soft opening starting Tuesday to give the community an idea of what is about to come. Morgan Carrico, general manager for Payless SuperFresh, said that they've had great response from the community.

"We are bringing something exciting and new to the area and the huge turnout from the soft opening that happened Tuesday to Thursday tells us that the response from the customers have



BEA CABRERA

At the ribbon cutting ceremony of the grand opening of Payless SuperFresh and Truckload Store. From left, Triple J Saipan Inc. marketing manager Valentina Haberman, Triple J Saipan vice president for finance and administration Michael S. Sablan, Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Jones & Guerrero Co. CEO Ramona Jones, Triple J chair and CEO Robert Jones, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Triple J president and COO Jeffrey B. Jones, and Triple J Business Development manager Mike Burgess.



BEA CABRERA

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store is located in Chalan Kanoa besides KFC and Taco Bell and is open daily from 8am to 9pm.

been 100% positive especially with the produce and meat departments as they have been doing great," he said.

"As for pricing, we are going to be competitive as much as we can. I would rather sell 100 for a lower price than sell 10 at a higher price... we also take pride with our organic and vegan options and options are good for the people on island," he added.

Aside from a wide array of food items from the mainland and different parts of the

world, Payless SuperFresh is also offering locally made products including Saipan's very own Saipan Snap ginger cookies by local resident Jill Arenovski.

Carrico said that they are open to add locally made products on the shelves. "I would like to encourage residents to be part of the super-market. They can come here and look for me so we can talk about the local products that they have. We would like to

help them promote and make their products known."

The opening of Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store is yet another feather on the cap of Jones who is considered one of the pillars of businesses on island today.

"This is Triple J's new baby and we are very pleased with the outcome of hard work," he said. "We are very happy with all the commissaries, the great comments about the store's appearance, shopping experience and prices, and we look forward to continue serving the people of Saipan and the rest of the CNMI."

Triple J Saipan vice president for finance and administration Michael S. Sablan said that the journey to open the store took almost a year.

"We had hiccups with [Super Typhoon Yutu] and finding labor but Mr. Jones saw an opportunity to introduce new ideas in a supermarket and grocery shopping... we are introducing new concepts, we have good operators on island and

we are a new player," he said.

"Aside from the many service and product options we offer, we are proud to be the first on Saipan to bring motorized grocery carts for the elderly and people with special needs. We want every single individual in the community to have a wonderful shopping experience here," he added.

Truckload Store general manager Jay Santos paid homage to the business' matriarch, the late Margaret Jones, who passed away in June.

"On November 5th, she would have celebrated her 80th birthday and that is why we thought opening the store would only be fitting to honor her... Mrs. Jones played a key role in Triple J's success over the years... and her legacy lives on," he said.

In his speech, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said that this new establishment is a big contribution especially in the Chalan Kanoa area.

"When Mr. Robert Jones decided to reinvigorate Chalan Kanoa, I believe a lot of us were very hopeful and fully behind his efforts. We see his other business Surf Rider Hotel also soon to open and the community is very happy to see Chalan Kanoa come back to life and also serves as an inspiration to reinvigorate other businesses in our community."

Alex Sablan, TanHoldings vice president of Corporate Business Development, said that Payless SuperFresh is a new alternative on island. "I like the variety here as it offers healthy options and it will keep the competition in play."

Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store is located beside KFC and Taco Bell in Chalan Kanoa. They are open daily from 8am to 9pm and for more information, call (670) 322-0430.

Despite fires, California wine is doing just fine—for now

HEALDSBURG, Calif.

(AP)—If you're worried that wildfires might have created shortages of Northern California's 2019 cabernet sauvignon, or even just imparted it with an undesirable smoky flavor, you can relax. The wine is just fine. For now.

Despite a late October blaze that raged through one of the world's best-known wine-growing regions, forcing evacuations in two mid-sized towns, wine production in Sonoma County escaped largely unscathed.

Limerick Lane Wines, for instance, avoided serious damage despite flames that licked at two sides of its property in the Russian River Valley just south of Healdsburg. Limerick's grapes were already harvested, crushed and stored in tanks and barrels. The winery's sealed cellar prevented smoke damage to its inventory, said owner Jake Bilbro, although its tasting room now has an acrid smell.

"I have to thank the people who planted our vineyards and built our house 100 years ago," Bilbro said. "Our buildings are all surrounded by vineyards, and vineyards

are excellent fire breaks."

Overall, vintners estimate that the region lost only about five percent of its harvest to fire and smoke—not a perfect outcome, but better than in 2017, when wildfire struck with only about 90% of the harvest in. The remaining grapes weren't all lost, but that year's vintages were rumored to have a "smoky" taste, and winemakers were taking no chances this year.

Many in Sonoma, a sprawling county larger than Rhode Island located about an hour north of San Francisco, say they're hoping that fires don't become the new normal. But with the smell of smoke lingers in the air and the charred hills serving as a reminder, they're also making plans in case they do.

Fire season isn't over yet, of course, and the now largely contained Kincadee fire did incinerate the historic Soda Rock Winery, although most vineyards sustained no damage and lost no production. But the region has suffered a precipitous drop in fall tourism, which could undermine the economic health of its wineries and hospitality industry alike.

Pot or not? Busts highlight growing confusion over hemp

NEW YORK (AP)—The CBD craze might be leaving the war on drugs a bit dazed and confused.

The extract that's been showing up in everything from candy to coffee is legally derived from hemp plants, which look and smell an awful lot like that other cannabis—marijuana. They're so similar, police officers and the field tests they use on suspected drugs sometimes can't tell the difference.

Case in point, New York City police boasted on social media this week about what seemed like a significant drug bust: 106 pounds (48 kilo-

grams) of funky, green plants that officers thought sure seemed like marijuana.

But the Vermont farm that grew the plants and the Brooklyn CBD shop that ordered them insisted they're actually industrial hemp, and perfectly legal. And, they said, they have paperwork to prove it.

Nevertheless, when the shop's owner brother went to the police station to straighten things out, he was arrested. Police said a field test had come back positive for marijuana.

Shop owner Oren Levy said that's likely because hemp often tests positive for a per-

missible, trace amount of THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, which is the chemical in cannabis that causes people to get high.

Field tests used by law enforcement officers can detect THC but aren't sophisticated enough to specify whether a shipment is legal hemp or low-grade illegal pot, and drug-sniffing dogs will alert on both.

"He was a hungry cop. He thought he had the bust of the day," said Levy, whose Green Angel CBD NYC sells oils, teas and other products containing the extract. He said he fears the seizure could force

him out of business.

CBD, or cannabidiol, is also found in marijuana but does not have an intoxicating effect. Some people say it provides them with pain and anxiety relief.

"I can't believe I'm going through this for a legal business," Levy said. "I can't believe my poor brother got locked up."

Oren and Ronen Levy are not alone.

Since the U.S. government removed industrial hemp last year from the list of illegal drugs, a number of similar cases have cropped up across the country.

Nation

Was Trump call with Ukraine ‘perfect’?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans have no unified argument in the impeachment inquiry of Donald Trump, in large part because they can't agree on how best to defend the president — or for some, if they should.

That would require a level of consensus that Trump's call with the Ukraine president was “perfect,” as he insists. Or it would take a measure of GOP independence from Trump to suggest there may be a need to investigate.

Instead, it's every Republican for himself or herself.

Utah Sen. Mitt Romney says the president's actions toward Ukraine are “troubling.” Other Republicans say the behavior may raise concerns, but it's not impeachable.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham calls the whole impeachment inquiry “B.S.”

The result is a mishmash of GOP commentary spilling from Capitol Hill that may shield lawmakers, for now, from risky political choices, but leaves them with a disjointed defense of Trump as impeachment hearings push into the public realm this coming week.

“It's not good,” said veteran GOP strategist Alex Conant. “Normally you want to establish the facts, get

them out on their own terms, and build a message around that strategy. They're not doing any of that.”

He added: “It's hard to rally people to your side without a coherent and sustainable message.”

Early on, as the White House ceded the PR strategy to the president, Republicans in the House and Senate parted ways as they confronted the political threat posed by the Democrats' impeachment investigation.

As far back as mid-October, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., gathered his GOP colleagues in private and offered them advice on impeachment.

McConnell told Republican senators their best bet was to calibrate their own message about the impeachment inquiry to fit their political situation, according to two people familiar with the private meeting who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the closed-door session.

With a Power Point presentation, McConnell outlined the process ahead if the investigation moves to a vote in the House and trial in the Senate. But when it came time to broach what Republicans should say about impeachment, McConnell showed a preference for saying as little

about it as possible.

McConnell suggested a couple of options. Senators could say they disagreed with the House process, he said, or they could simply say that as potential jurors in an eventual impeachment trial they wouldn't discuss it, according to the people familiar with the meeting.

It was the kind of political advice one would expect from the risk-averse leader as he tries to insulate his 53-seat GOP majority, including several senators up for reelection in 2020 in states such as Maine and Colorado where voters are split on Trump.

“That's what a good leader does—gives them the flexibility they need to respond. My problem is, given how egregious the president's conduct is, he's given them a pass,” said Jim Manley, a veteran Democratic strategist.

“Most of these folks have got to know that what the president's doing is wrong, but they've made a cold-hearted, political decision right now it's best to stick with the president,” he said.

At its core, the impeachment inquiry is based on what Democrats say is an improper quid pro quo — a “shakedown” — that Trump engaged in during his July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

» **GOP has many answers**



ACROSS THE NATION

Father of black woman killed by white Texas officer dies

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The father of a black woman fatally shot by a white police officer inside her Fort Worth, Texas, home has died. A spokesman for Marquis Jefferson, Bruce Carter, tells the Dallas Morning News that the father of Atatiana Jefferson suffered a heart attack and died Saturday night at a Dallas hospital. Carter tells KDFW that Jefferson “just couldn't get back from what happened with his daughter.” The 28-year-old Jefferson was killed last month after police went to her home for a welfare check. The Fort Worth officer, Aaron Dean, was charged with murder after resigning from the force. After his daughter's death, Marquis Jefferson sought a temporary restraining order to gain control over the funeral arrangements from his daughter's aunt. A deal was eventually reached and the

funeral was rescheduled.

Coroner IDs gunman killed outside Kentucky supermarket

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Officials in Kentucky have identified a man who authorities say was killed in a shootout with police outside a Louisville supermarket. According to news outlets, the Jefferson County Coroner's Office on Saturday identified the man as 32-year-old Shelby Gazaway of Louisville. Louisville Police Maj. Jamey Schwab says Gazaway fought with another person in the store on Thursday night, pulled out a handgun and fired shots at the ceiling. Schwab says Gazaway exited the store and fired at arriving officers, who then returned fire. Gazaway died at the scene. No other injuries were reported. The two officers involved in the shooting are on administrative reassignment while the incident is investigated.

17 arrested in Florida child porn sting; 2 worked for Disney

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. (AP)—Authorities in central Florida say two Disney workers and a former assistant principal at a middle school were among 17 arrested in a child porn sting. In a news release, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said Friday that the 17 men arrested range in age from 19 to 77. Authorities say 52-year-old Walt Disney World Resorts janitor Donald Durr of Davenport had images of child porn on an electronic tablet. Investigators say 40-year-old Brett Kinney of Lake Alfred told officers he had an addiction to child pornography and worked as a guest experience manager at Disney World. In a statement, Disney says Kinney is no longer employed by the company and Durr is on unpaid leave. It's unclear if either has an attorney who could comment on the charges.

World

AS CYCLONE HITS BANGLADESH

Hundreds of thousands evacuated

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A strong cyclone made landfall early Sunday in Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of people have moved to shelters across the low-lying delta nation's vast coastal region.

Packing winds of up to 120 kilometers (75 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 130 kph (80 mph), Cyclone Bulbul weakened when it started crossing Bangladesh's southwestern coastal region, dumping incessant rains across the country. No casualties were reported immediately.

The weather office said the cyclone slammed ashore at Sagar Island in the southern part of India's West Bengal state. Its path included the southwestern Khulna region, which has the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, which straddles the Bangladesh-India border.

Up to 1.8 million people were expected to be evacuated by Saturday evening, said Enamur Rahman, Bangladesh's junior disaster management minister. More than 5,000 shelters had been prepared.

The weather office said coastal districts were likely to be inundated by storm surges of 1½-2 meters (5-7 feet) above normal tide because of the impact of the cyclone.

Several ships from Bangla-



A woman covers her head with a plastic sheet as it rains in Kolkata, India, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019.

desh's navy and coast guard were kept ready in parts of the region for an emergency response, the TV station Independent reported.

The storm is also expected to impact parts of northeastern India, where precautions were being taken.

Rahman said the government suspended weekend leave for government officials in 13 coastal districts.

On Saturday, volunteers used loudspeakers to ask people to move to shelters in Chittagong and other regions, according to the Disaster Management Ministry. In the Cox's Bazar coastal district, tourists were alerted to stay in their hotels, while a few hundred visitors were stuck on

Saint Martins Island.

Authorities suspended all activities in the country's main seaports, including in Chittagong, which handles almost 80% of Bangladesh's exports and imports. All vessels and fishing boats were told to stop operating.

Local authorities ordered school buildings and mosques to be used as shelters in addition to dedicated cyclone shelters -- raised concrete buildings that have been built over the past decades.

Bangladesh, a nation of 160 million people, has a history of violent cyclones. But disaster preparedness programs in recent decades have upgraded the country's capacity to deal with natural disasters, resulting in fewer casualties.

New challenge for Bolivian president as police abandon posts

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Police guards outside Bolivia's presidential palace abandoned their posts Saturday, increasing pressure on President Evo Morales as he seeks to curb nationwide unrest after a disputed election.

Officers also climbed onto the roof of a nearby police station holding Bolivian flags and signs proclaiming “The Police with the People.” Police retreated to their barracks in at least three cities, and there were reports that some in two cities were openly declaring mutinies.

The president, who was not at the palace at the time and appeared later at a military airfield outside La Paz, urged police to “preserve the security” of Bolivia and obey the rules.

Growing dissension in police ranks posed a new threat to Morales, who claimed victory after the Oct. 20 vote but has since faced protests in which three people have been killed and hundreds injured. Opponents contend the results were manipulated.

Morales faces “the most

complicated moment” in his 14 years in power and the situation could deteriorate, said Jorge Dulón, a political analyst at the Catholic University of Bolivia in La Paz.

Police units in some cities started protesting Friday, marching in the streets in uniform as anti-government protesters cheered them from the sidewalks.

Defense Minister Javier Zabaleta initially played down the police protests, saying a “police mutiny occurred in a few regions.”

Gen. Williams Kaliman, the military chief, said Saturday that the military had no plans to intervene.

“We'll never confront the people among whom we live. We guarantee peaceful co-existence,” Kaliman said. “This is a political problem and it should be resolved within that realm.”

A list of demands from dissident police officers included better working conditions, the resignation of their commander and guarantees that they won't be used as a political “instrument of any government.”

The spectacle of police leaving their positions outside the presidential palace was an ominous development for Morales.

At a news conference at the military base, Morales appealed to Bolivia's political factions to hold talks. He said the four parties that received the most votes in the nine-candidate election should sit down with “an open agenda to pacify Bolivia.”

Carlos Mesa, the main opposition leader and a former president who finished second in the Oct. 20 vote, promptly rejected the suggestion.

“I have nothing to negotiate with Evo Morales, who has lost all grip on reality,” Mesa said.

Another opposition leader, Luis Fernando Camacho, said the president “is looking for exits, when people demand his resignation and call for new elections.”

While appealing for dialogue, Morales has also accused his opponents of trying to overthrow Bolivia's rightful government.

Health & Wellness

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Even running once a week can lower your risk of early death, study says

By NAJJA PARKER
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Is jogging a part of your workout regimen? It should be, according to a new report.

Researchers from health institutions in Australia, Thailand and Finland recently conducted a study to explore the effects of running.

To do so, they examined 14 previous assessments that involved 232,149 adults. They evaluated the participants' physical activity and followed up on their health outcomes between five and 35 years later.

After analyzing the results, they found those who ran any distance had a 27% lower risk of death from all causes, compared to those who didn't run at all.

They discovered running was also associated with a 30% reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease and a 23% reduced risk of death from cancer.

"Increased rates of participation in running, regardless of its dose, would probably lead to substantial improvements in population health and longevity," the authors wrote. "Any amount of running, even just once a week, is better than no running, but higher doses of running may not necessarily be associated with greater mortality benefits."

They noted clinicians and policymakers have previously been discouraged from promoting running, because too much exertion has been linked with sudden cardiac arrest. It's also been linked with higher injury risk.

That's why they believe doctors should be cautious when recommending the exercise.

"Running might not be a suitable activity for all clinical populations, and a clinician may need to make an informed decision about whether or not to prescribe it on a case-by-case basis."

The results were published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine journal.



A recent study found that those who ran any distance in a week had a lower risk of death from all causes.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Seven strategies to put your diet on a plant-based path

By MICHELLE WASHINGTON
TNS

A plant-based diet may have seemed extreme years ago, but today it's all the rage—and for good reason. In many ways the planet and human health are in trouble, and a plant-centric diet is one way to address both issues.

More than 10,000 studies in peer-reviewed medical journals show that a diet based on whole plant foods leads to higher life expectancy and lower rates of cancer, heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's and most other chronic ailments. "If you eat the standard American diet, you're going to get the standard American diseases," says Ocean Robbins, co-founder of the Food Revolution Network and author of 31-Day Food Revolution.

"However, a plant-based diet can add years to your life and life to your years." When you look more closely at heart disease, the No. 1 killer of American adults, the story becomes even more convincing. "The only diet proven not just to prevent but also reverse heart disease is a plant-based diet," says Marco A. Borges, exercise physiologist, founder of 22 Days Nutrition and New York Times bestselling author whose latest book is *The Greenprint: Plant-Based Diet, Best Body, Better World*. Statistics show that roughly 600,000 Ameri-

cans die from heart disease every year, but 80 percent of cardiovascular disease is preventable, especially with a shift to a plant-based diet, says Dr. Saray Stancic, a lifestyle medicine physician in Ramsey, N.J.

There's also evidence that the current food system is unsustainable. "Worldwide, animal agriculture provides 18 percent of humanity's food calories and 37 percent of protein, but uses 83 percent of farmland and one-third of the planet's fresh water, and is responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than the world's cars, planes, trucks, ships and trains combined," Robbins says.

Yet, changing how you've always eaten isn't easy. Where do you start? Experts share seven strategies:

1 Don't think all or nothing. Just as Rome wasn't built in a day, you don't need to shift your diet overnight. "Every step you take toward more whole plant foods is a step toward greater health for you and the planet," Robbins says. How closely you lean into plants is your choice, but know that in the "Blue Zones"—places around the world where people live the longest and healthiest—diets are focused on whole plant foods with almost no added sugar or processed foods and between zero and 10 percent of calories from animal products. In the United States, however, approxi-

mately 54 percent of calories come from processed foods and another 34 percent from animal products, Robbins says. No amount of processed food is healthy, and even if animal products are a small part of your diet, "the Blue Zones show that what's best is a lot less than most are eating," he adds.

2 Make plants the star of your plate. If you're eating like most Americans, animal products comprise most of your plate. An easy fix? "Put plants at the center of your plate, and if you do have any animal products, make them the side dish," Stancic says. As your taste buds adapt to this new way of eating, gradually push animal products off your plate completely so that you're following the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine's Power Plate formula, which divides a meal into four quadrants: whole grains, fruits, vegetables and legumes.

3 Add whole plant foods to your environment. Your environment plays a key role in determining whether you'll succeed at adopting a new habit, which is why it makes sense to set it up for success. The best strategy? "Bring more whole plant foods into your house and put them out where you can see them," Borg-

es says. How many times, after all, have you bought fruits or veggies, shoved them into the back of your fridge and later found them spoiled because you forgot about them? Instead, keep fruits and veggies at eye level in the fridge and place bowls of fruit on counters in view. At the same time, keep unhealthy processed foods out of sight as you gradually work on cutting them from your kitchen.

4 Be a planner. Nothing gets done in life without some planning, healthy eating included. Start by shopping from a list, as you'll stand a better chance of avoiding unhealthy impulse purchases, Robbins says. Then think about your meals for the next week, or just the next day if that's easier ("plan breakfast before you go to bed," he adds, suggesting overnight oats or presoaked chia blueberry porridge), so that you don't end up eating unhealthy food in a pinch.

5 Do batch cooking. When Borges' mom switched to a 100 percent plant-based diet, he advised her to pick a day each week to cook foods like whole grains and beans in batches, even making salad dressing for the week. She could then store the foods in the fridge or the freezer and pull them out as needed. "Although it takes

time to cook them, it's a huge time-saver," he says.

6 Adopt the Meatless Monday habit. This global campaign encourages people to take meat off their plate every Monday, and it's a good entry point to eating more plants. "Research shows that we have our best intentions for healthy eating on Monday, and Meatless Monday is a great way to dip your toes in the water," says Sharon Palmer, registered dietitian and author of *Plant-Powered for Life*. After seeing how easy it is, you may be encouraged to eat meatless on other days, too.

7 Find support. No matter what change you're trying to make, going it alone can be challenging. That's why Stancic asks her patients to bring family members when she speaks to them about adopting a whole food, plant-based diet. "You're introducing a significant change into your life, and if you don't have support, that change becomes more difficult," she says. Even if your family isn't on board, you can find support in friends, work colleagues and local meetup or Facebook groups. Of course, changing habits can be challenging, and for many, shifting to a plant-based diet is a work in progress. And that's OK. As Borges says, "Aim for progression, not perfection."

Life & Style

French paper: French woman claims rape by Polanski in 1975

PARIS (AP)—A French woman in her early 60s claims she was violently raped at age 18 by Oscar-winning filmmaker Roman Polanski, a fugitive from the U.S. for more than four decades since pleading guilty to a sex offense with a minor, a French newspaper reported Friday.

Le Parisien said the woman, Valentine Monnier, alleges she was raped in 1975 at Polanski's chalet in Gstaad, Switzerland, when she was 18.

The paper quoted Polanski's lawyer, Herve Temime, as saying that the 86-year-old Polanski "firmly contests" the allegation. The attorney could

not be immediately reached by The Associated Press.

Temime "deplored" in his response to the newspaper that the claim is being made public shortly before Polanski's latest film, "J'Accuse" (An Officer and a Spy) is being released in France. Monnier told Le Parisien that it was the film that triggered her decision to go public, saying that "rape is a time bomb."

AP does not normally disclose the identities of purported rape victims, but Monnier gave her consent to be identified by Le Parisien after contacting the paper in mid-September. The paper said she had previously

written letters to the Los Angeles police, French first lady Brigitte Macron and others. One of several who responded was Marlene Schiappa, junior minister for gender equality, who noted the case was too old for judicial action.

Polanski's latest film is the story of what is known as the Dreyfus Affair, the infamous 19th century scandal in France in which army Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew, was wrongly convicted of treason. It underscored the failure of justice.

Monnier said publicity surrounding the film revived the "traumatic memory" of her encounter with Polanski, in

particular what she claims was a comparison the filmmaker made in one interview of the relentless pursuit of Dreyfus to what he has been subjected to over the American case.

John Legend lends support as Florida felons get vote rights

MIAMI (AP)—Singer John Legend was on hand to lend support Friday as 18 former felons were granted the right to vote in what Miami officials called a simple and streamlined process.

The ceremony in a Miami-Dade County courtroom was meant to show that ex-felons can regain their voting rights, even if the Republican-controlled state Legislature enacted a law requiring them to pay any fees, fines and restitution first.

Florida voters approved constitutional Amendment 4 last year aimed at allowing

Polanski pleaded guilty in the U.S. in 1977 to having sex with a 13-year-old, then fled to Europe the following year.

"Is this tenable, under the pretext of a film, the cover of

about 1.4 million ex-felons to vote. The Legislature's subsequent law put the financial requirements in place, landing the issue before the Florida Supreme Court which heard oral arguments earlier this week.

Legend said he backs efforts to allow former felons to fully regain their place in society.

"It's so beautiful to see," Legend told reporters. "So many people take it for granted, this right to vote. When you lose it, it makes you realize how important it is."

"It just shows you how important democracy is, how

history to hear 'I accuse' from the man who marked you like with iron when it is forbidden for you, the victim, to accuse him?" the paper quoted Monnier as saying.

precious democracy is," he added. "It's important for all of us to be included in that."

The Grammy winner held a fundraiser Thursday night for the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which is mounting a statewide effort to help former prisoners obtain the right to vote.

One by one, the former felons came before Circuit Judge Nushin Sayfie for brief hearings to ensure they are qualified to regain the right to vote. One of them was Andre Williams, 63, who had an aggravated assault conviction on his record.

Marie Kondo's doing what she can to make your kids tidy



Author and television personality Marie Kondo poses for a portrait to promote her children's book "Kiki & Jax: The Life-Changing Magic of Friendship" on Monday, Nov. 4, 2019, in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Not even Marie Kondo can follow all her rules for tidying all the time.

"Of course, when things get very busy, I need to let go of some of my standards and methods, and I think that's a completely natural thing," the decluttering guru, Netflix reality star and mother of two told The Associated Press.

The soft-spoken Kondo was tight-lipped on exactly what she lets slide, besides leaving her house slippers in the middle of the floor occasionally, but one thing's for sure: When it comes to Kondo, the emphasis is on busy these days.

Kondo has amassed an empire by urging the world to decide if their belongings "spark joy" and has expanded her reach yet again with her debut children's picture book, "Kiki & Jax: The Life-Changing Magic of Friendship," co-written and illustrated by Salina Yoon.

For grown-ups who fight

chaos on the job, she has partnered with organizational psychologist Scott Sonenshein on a new book due out in April, "Joy at Work: Organizing Your Professional life," aimed at sorting out desks, schedules and inboxes.

Kondo and the first season of her Netflix series, "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo," were nominated for two Emmys this year, with no wins. While discussions are underway for a second season, she has slowly gone about dispensing advice on a broader range of lifestyle topics, from knowing when a relationship no longer sparks joy to making the perfect ben-to box for kids.

Later this month on her website, Konmari.com, she'll start selling some of the things that spark her own joy at home but are made by others, such as her favorite incense and rice cooker. And in the last year, she has expanded her network of KonMari-certified consul-

ants to about 300 in more than 30 countries.

With Kondo's Netflix show came a move to Los Angeles with her husband and daughters, ages 4 and 3. It was her second time living in the United States—the first was a stint in San Francisco. The families she helped on Netflix were all in the Los Angeles area, including Wendy and Ron Akiyama.

She said the empty nesters posed the greatest challenge during the eight-episode season with their mountain of clothes, out-of-control Christmas decorations and boxes stuffed with thousands of baseball cards.

"There was so much stuff," Kondo said through a translator during a recent interview. "I've tidied up a lot of messy homes in Japan, but they tended to be quite small. On this American scale, and especially the amount of things in the garage, it was quite shocking."

AP sources: Former Trump adviser John Bolton has a book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Former national security adviser John Bolton has a book deal, The Associated Press has learned.

The hawkish Bolton departed in September because of numerous foreign policy disagreements with President Donald Trump. He reached a deal over the past few weeks with Simon & Schuster, according to three publishing officials with knowledge of negotiations. The officials were not authorized to discuss the deal publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two of the officials said the deal was worth about \$2 million. Bolton was represented by the Javelin literary agency, whose clients include former FBI Director James Comey and the anonymous Trump administration official whose book, "A Warning," comes out Nov. 19.

The publishing officials did

not know the title or release date. Simon & Schuster declined comment Saturday and Javelin did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Bolton's 2007 book, "Surrender is Not an Option: Defending America at the United Nations and Abroad," was published by the conservative Simon & Schuster imprint Threshold Editions.

Bolton's name has come up often recently during the House impeachment inquiry, which has focused on Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate potential 2020 election rival Joe Biden, the former vice president.

In a transcript of a closed-door interview released Friday, a former national security official described how Bolton



Bolton

had "immediately stiffened" as Ambassador Gordon Sondland "blurted out" that he had worked out a trade—Ukrainians' probe for an Oval Office welcome for

Ukraine's new president—with Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney.

Fiona Hill said Bolton later told her that "I am not part of whatever drug deal Sondland and Mulvaney are cooking up" and asked her to relay that message to a White House lawyer.

Meanwhile, a letter from Bolton's attorney to the top lawyer for the House alleges that Bolton was "part of many relevant meetings and conversations" pertaining to the House impeachment inquiry of Trump that are not yet public.

OJ Simpson sues Las Vegas casino, contends he was defamed

LAS VEGAS (AP)—O.J. Simpson is suing a Las Vegas hotel-casino that banned him in November 2017, alleging that unnamed employees defamed him by telling a celebrity news site he had been drunk, disruptive and unruly.

Simpson, on parole in Nevada for a 2008 conviction for armed robbery and assault with a weapon, filed the lawsuit Thursday against Nevada Property 1 LLC, corporate owner of the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.

The complaint acknowledges that Simpson, after several hours with two friends at a steakhouse and a lounge in

November 2017, received a notice from a security guard as they left. It prohibited him from returning to the Las Vegas Strip property. He says he was never given a reason.

Cosmopolitan spokeswoman Rachel Henry declined comment.

Simpson denied in the lawsuit that he was "belligerent," broke glass or damaged property.

Simpson attorney Malcolm LaVergne said his client's reputation was damaged by "hotel staff" accounts cited in a TMZ report that Simpson "was drunk and became disruptive" at the resort's Clique bar.

TMZ is not a defendant in the lawsuit.

Simpson had been released on parole less than six weeks before the incident, and LaVergne said Friday his client was stung by criticism he received on social media. The attorney said Simpson did not have a Twitter account in 2017.

"Now we've got Twitter. We've got a lawsuit. We'll see how things play out," LaVergne said.

Simpson opened a Twitter account last June with an initial video post saying, "I got a little gettin' even to do." Most posts since have been about football.

Anonymous book describes volatile, incompetent Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—A forthcoming book by an anonymous author identified only as “a senior official in the Trump administration” describes President Donald Trump as volatile, incompetent and unfit to be commander in chief, according to excerpts published Thursday by The Washington Post.



trump

The book describes racist and misogynist behind-the-scenes statements by Trump and says he “stumbles, slurs, gets confused, is easily irri-

tated, and has trouble synthesizing information.”

The Post acquired a copy of the book, “A Warning,” and first reported on its contents Thursday.

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham released a statement late Thursday saying, “The coward who wrote this book didn’t put their name on it because it is nothing but lies.”

She said reporters should “cover the book as what it is—a work of fiction.”

In the book, due out Nov. 19,

the writer claims senior administration officials considered resigning as a group last year in a “midnight self-massacre,” but ultimately decided such an act would do more harm than good.

On Monday, the Justice Department sent a letter to the book’s publisher and the

writer’s literary agency, raising questions over whether any confidentiality agreement had been violated and asking for information that could help reveal the author’s identity.

The publisher, Hachette Book Group, responded by saying it would provide no ad-

ditional information beyond calling the author a “current or former senior official.”

“A Warning” was written by the official who wrote an essay, published last year in The New York Times, alleging that numerous people in the government were resisting the “mis-

guided impulses” of Trump.

According to the Post, the author now writes, “Unelected bureaucrats and cabinet appointees were never going to steer Donald Trump the right direction in the long run, or refine his malignant management style. He is who he is.”

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Woody Allen and Amazon end legal battle

NEW YORK (AP)—Woody Allen and Amazon.com have ended their legal battle. The filmmaker had sued Amazon in February after the online giant ended his 2017 contract without ever releasing a completed film, “A Rainy Day in New York.” Amazon had responded that Allen, whose daughter Dylan has accused him of molesting her when she was a girl, breached the 4-movie deal by making insensitive remarks about the #MeToo movement. Allen has repeatedly denied the allegations made by his daughter. In papers filed Friday in U.S. District Court, Allen and Amazon agreed that the case should be dismissed without prejudice. Terms were not disclosed. “A Rainy Day in New York” was released overseas, but not in the U.S. Allen’s career has slowed in recent years, with several actors who had appeared in his films saying they would not work with him again.

Memoir by Mariah Carey to be published thanks to Andy Cohen

NEW YORK (AP) — A memoir by Mariah Carey is

on the list of titles from Andy Cohen Books. Henry Holt and Company announced Thursday that Cohen’s self-named imprint will launch in 2020. It says the imprint will feature three nonfiction works by women. Carey’s memoir will be about her journey to superstar status. The other works are “The Queen V,” by Dr. Jacqueline Waters, a cast member on Bravo’s “Married to Medicine,” and “Bodacious Dreams and Revelations,” by Bevy Smith, a former co-host of “Page Six TV.” Cohen is the TV producer behind the “The Real Housewives” Bravo franchise and host of “Watch What Happens Live with Andy Cohen.” Holt is the publisher of Cohen’s three best sellers: “Most Talkative,” “The Andy Cohen Diaries,” and “Superficial.” The imprint was announced in 2016.

Vanna White hosts ‘Wheel of Fortune’ after Sajak has surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — “Wheel of Fortune” host Pat Sajak had to have emergency surgery, and his longtime co-host Vanna White will fill in for him while he recovers. The show said in a statement that Thursday’s taping

was canceled as the 73-year-old Sajak underwent successful surgery to correct a blocked intestine. The 62-year-old White stepped in as host when taping resumed Friday for episodes that will air starting Dec. 9. The statement says Sajak is resting comfortably and looking forward to returning but does not say how long he is expected to be out or how long White will act as host. Sajak and White have co-hosted the show since the early 1980s. She filled in for him once before for one segment of the show, when Sajak had laryngitis in 1996.

Nobel Prize winner Handke admits having Yugoslav passport

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Nobel laureate Peter Handke has admitted that he had a Yugoslav passport in the 1990s but said he never had Yugoslav citizenship, his response to an investigation of whether he legally held on to his Austrian citizenship after obtaining the travel document. Handke, who won the Nobel Prize for literature this year, told Belgrade newspaper Vecernje Novosti on Friday that he “got the passport to travel” and added that he never had Yugoslav citizenship.

It is not clear how Handke acquired the Yugoslav passport in 1999; at the time, the country required anyone obtaining the document to first apply for citizenship. Since Serbia and Montenegro split apart in 2006, Yugoslav passports are no longer valid. Authorities in Austria’s Carinthia province, where Handke lived before moving to France, have opened an investigation. Austrians taking another citizenship need to secure permission to keep their Austrian nationality. Handke, who has long faced criticism for his vigorous defense of the Serbs during the 1990s’ wars in the Balkans, has repeatedly argued that Serbs did not commit genocide during the Srebrenica massacre in 1995 that left at least 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys dead. He has frequently visited Serbia in the ‘90s and even spoke at the funeral of Serbia’s strongman Slobodan Milosevic, who died during his U.N. war crimes trial in 2006. Bosnian war survivors, including mothers who lost husbands and sons in Srebrenica, protested Tuesday in Sarajevo, urging the Nobel Committee to reverse its decision to award the 2019 Nobel Prize to Handke.

ABC cancels ‘Fresh Off the Boat,’ sets finale for February

LOS ANGELES (AP)—ABC’s “Fresh Off the Boat,” the first network TV comedy in two decades to focus on an Asian American family, is coming to an end after six seasons.

The network said Friday that the sitcom starring Randall Park and Constance Wu will wrap with an hour-long finale on Feb. 21, making this a truncated last season.

The show about a couple and their three children in 1990s Florida is based on chef Eddie Huang’s memoir of the same name.

In a statement, ABC Entertainment president Karey Burke lauded the show as “game-changing” with its focus on an Asian American family.

While the TV industry has gradually embraced diversity, it’s been slow to include characters of Asian descent in the mix. Comedian Margaret Cho’s “All-American Girl”

ended in 1995 after one season.

A possible spinoff with characters to be introduced on “Fresh Off the Boat” is being considered. It would focus on an Indian family whose daughter is one of Eddie’s (Hudson Yang) classmates.

Wu, who starred in “Crazy Rich Asians,” apologized earlier this year for a Twitter outburst lamenting the show’s renewal this season.

She said it was an emotional reaction to having to pass on a passion project because it conflicted with “Fresh Off the Boat.”

The comedy that airs at 8:30 p.m. EST Friday is averaging 3.1 million weekly viewers for the season to date, making it No. 69 out of about 80 network programs. Its direct competition includes CBS’ “Hawaii Five-0,” which is drawing nearly triple the audience and ranks 26th for the season so far, according to Nielsen.

Turn about is fair play for friend using friend

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend who lived in my home most of the time for about six years. During that period, she rented out rooms in her house. She paid her bills, and I paid mine, but I covered her living off me. At the time, it didn’t bother me much because I could afford it, although I would have preferred to save that money.

I have since sold that house and bought my dream retirement home in another state. Now, I stay with her, and her renters have moved out. It’s unpleasant sometimes because when she gets drunk she accuses me of using her. (It’s true, I am.) Is it OK to use her by staying in her home without really liking her much? I feel it’s my turn to leech, and I’d like to stick it out until I retire in about a year.

WAITING TO MOVE

DEAR WAITING: It’s OK with me as long as it’s OK with you. But don’t kid yourself. You’re not living there rent-free. Tolerating an unpleasant drunk is the price you’re paying, and only you can determine whether it’s worth it.

DEAR ABBY: I’m originally from another country and have been living in the U.S. for about a decade. Is there a rule of etiquette for kids’ play dates?

Quite often, I have invited my child’s school friends or the neighbor children to my home for play dates, but their parents never return the courtesy. If my child wants to keep having play

dates with those children, should I continue inviting them?

I sometimes feel I could be making the parents uncomfortable, but I feel my child’s socialization is more important than what the other parents might think. Am I setting myself up for abuse from those other parents by sending the message that I don’t mind always being the host?

CONFUSED MOTHER

DEAR CONFUSED: Kudos to you for helping your child to socialize and inviting the children into your home. However, not all parents feel as comfortable as you do about having children over, or are as able to do so. Whether or not you are being taken advantage of, I can’t say. But perhaps it’s better that you have the children in your home where you can observe and supervise what’s going on than they be someplace where you can’t.

DEAR ABBY: Ten months ago, I searched for my birth mother and made contact. We corresponded via letters. She was terminally ill and preferred to keep me a secret from her children. I understood her feelings and respected her wishes.

She passed away last month, and her husband sent a letter notifying me. My question is: How long should I wait before reaching out to my siblings?

REACHING OUT IN MAINE

DEAR REACHING OUT: Do so at any time you wish,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



but be prepared for them to be shocked and possibly disbelieving. It would have been better had your birth mother prepared them before her death, but since she didn’t, I see no reason why you should remain a guilty secret.

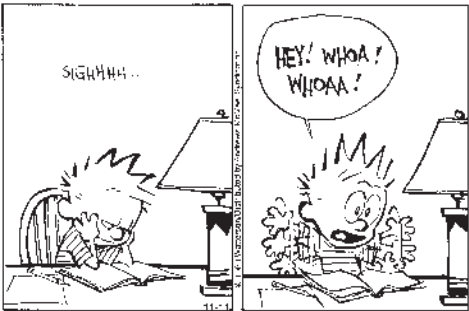
DEAR VETERANS: For your service to our nation, I salute you. My thanks to each of you on this Veterans Day. You are the personification of patriotism, self-sacrifice and dedication to our country. Today I would also like to recognize your families for the sacrifices they, too, have made.

Love, ABBY

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

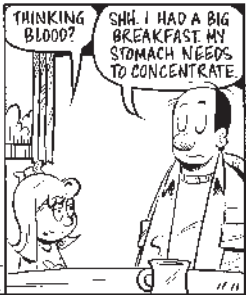
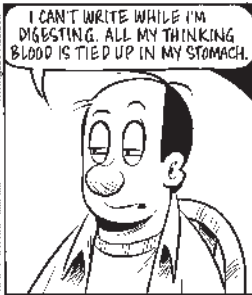


By Bill Waterson Garfield®



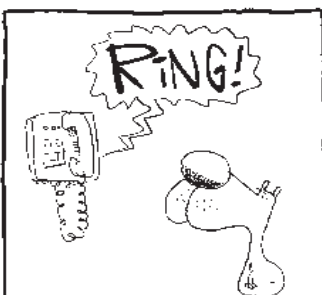
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Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

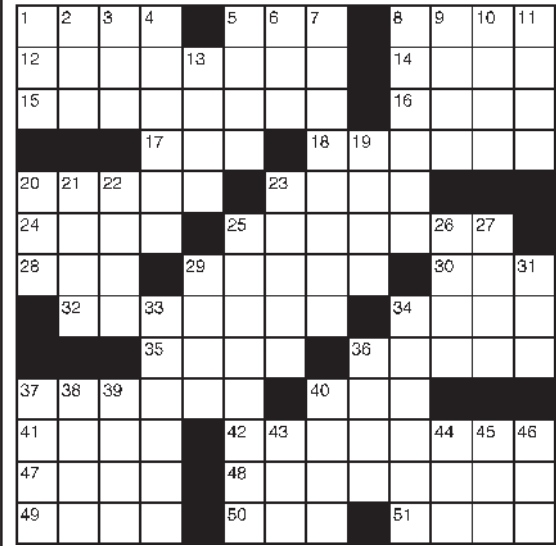
ACROSS 1 List-ending abbr. 5 JFK's veep 8 Red planet 12 School fundraiser 14 Six-sided state 15 "Money-ball" actor 16 Roof overhang 17 Pantheon member 18 Attached with glue 20 "American Buffalo" playwright 23 Pickling herb 24 Blacken on a grill 25 1968 Steve McQueen film 28 Lincoln or Ford 29 Two-tone cookies 30 King, in Cannes 32 Sinclair Lewis' conformist 34 Gear teeth

35 Billions of years 36 Hill of "Money-ball" 37 Eggnog sprinkling 40 Bottom line 41 Jacob's twin 42 Pan handler? 47 Collections 48 Transferred files 49 Elm or oak 50 Airport screening org. 51 Lays down the lawn

DOWN 1 Recede 2 Roofing goo 3 Alias abbr. 4 Account book 5 Deposited 6 Crunchy sandwich 7 Modern aviator 8 Swiss cereal 9 Rat- 10 Gushing review 11 Molt 13 Dalmatian feature 19 Shakespeare title 20 Cato's 1200 21 Melville captain 22 Actress Kate 23 Songs for two 25 Accentuate 26 1982 sci-fi film 27 Forum wear 29 Reed instrument 31 Somewhat (Suff.) 33 Perplex 34 Punctuation marks that may give you pause? 36 Jupiter's wife 37 Bird's home 38 -friendly 39 London gallery 40 Actress Ward 43 #2 execs 44 Altar affirmative 45 Slugger Williams 46 Pro Bowl stats

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 11/11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leonardo DiCaprio, 45; Calista Flockhart, 55; Demi Moore, 57; Marc Summers, 68.

Happy Birthday: Take your time. Be certain before you decide to leap into action. The change will take place, but how well things turn out for you will be based on preparation. Refuse to let someone pressure you or use coercive tactics to get you to make a move before you are ready. Trust your instincts and intelligence. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 25, 34, 45, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional spending will lead to trouble, but putting time and money into something that enhances your qualifications or skills is worth the investment. A positive change should be made. Traveling and romantic plans can be put in place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change your plans if something doesn't seem right. Make whatever move work in your favor. A meeting will lead to information that will help you make a wise decision. A partnership will encourage you to make a personal change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal gain should be your intent. Do something that will get you up and moving. Physical activity will help you build strength and confidence. Don't let anyone interfere or tempt you to get involved in poor habits you've managed to squelch.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get involved in something that will make a difference to your environment, your relationship with someone special or a project you want to pursue. It's

up to you how meaningful your life and future become. Set a goal and follow through.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put on a happy face, regardless of what you are up against. Choose to be part of the solution, not the problem. Listen carefully, say little and let your actions speak for you. Personal improvements will enhance your life and your day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Visiting a place you used to frequent will bring back an old memory. Lessons from the past will encourage you to do things differently this time around. Plan your actions, and execute them with confidence. Refuse to let indulgent behavior ruin your day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A problem will surface that causes uncertainty. Refuse responsibilities that don't belong to you. Focus on self-improvement, picking up knowledge and skills, and making the most of your life. Take control instead of letting someone else choose your destiny. Romance is in the stars.

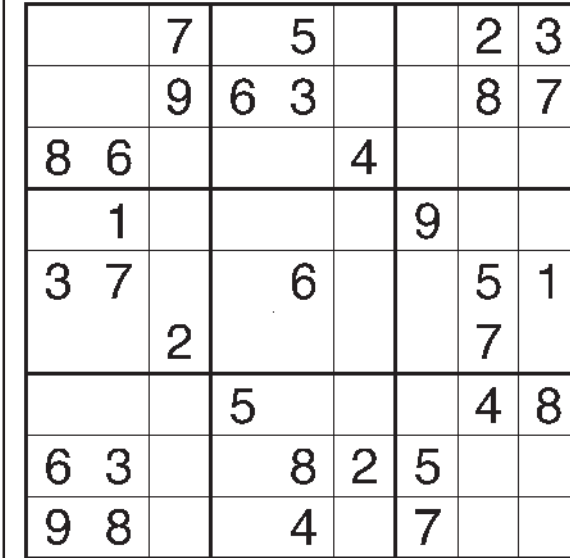
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be offered information that can help you get ahead. A change at home will allow you to work on something that will encourage a new outlet for a unique aptitude or service you have to offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep moving forward. Refuse to let anyone anger you or lead you astray. Focus on what you need to do, and choose to work alone if given a chance. Someone you least expect will make a last-minute change.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



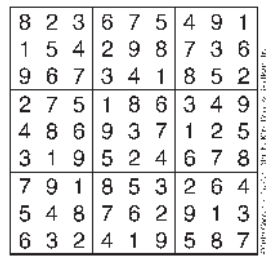
Difficulty Level ★

11/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

11/11

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make a change at home or at work that will help keep the peace and give you greater freedom to come and go as you please. A responsible attitude will encourage others to trust you to make unified decisions.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful who you share personal information with or how you handle people in high positions. Listen, assess situations and bide your time. A change is not in your best interest. Put your energy into physical improvements.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's up to you to bring about change if that's what you want. Don't leave anything to chance or unfinished. Take on only what you know you can handle in order to avoid looking incompetent to your peers or superiors.



Birthdays: You are uplifting, intense and creative. You are adaptable and inquisitive.

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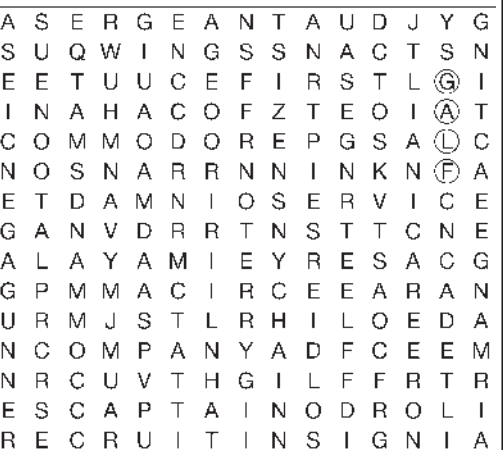
WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VARIOUS MILITARY RANKS

Solution: 9 letters



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OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

INVICTUS T. FELICIANO
Petitioner,

vs.

GERALDINE C. FELICIANO
Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
NO. 19-0219

SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504279 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2019

/s/ Clerk of Court

Friends of the Mariana Trench MNM
P. O. Box 7048 Saipan, MP 96950 | marianamonument@gmail.com

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WHATZIT Solution: Robinson Crusoe

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Hayward injured, but Celtics still rout Spurs



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—In the midst of Boston's most dominant performance of the season, Celtics point guard Kemba Walker could

only muster anger and confusion after learning Gordon Hayward broke his left hand.

Jaylen Brown scored 30 points and Boston routed the San Antonio Spurs 135-115 on Saturday in a victory tempered by the loss of Hayward, who will miss at least a month and could face surgery after breaking his left hand late in the first half.

"I was in shock," Walker said. "In those kinds of situations, it's kind of hard to say anything. You just don't even know what to say sometimes. We're going to miss him for the time that he's out."

Walker add 26 points as Boston (7-1) won its seventh straight game and set season highs for total points, first quarter scoring (39 points) and first-half scoring (72 points).

There was a somberness to the victory, though, after Hayward suffered his second significant injury since signing with the Celtics three seasons ago. The 6-foot-7 forward missed the 2017 season after breaking his leg six minutes into Boston's season opener.

"This one doesn't feel near as bad as it did two years ago," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "So, he'll be back. Be off for a few weeks or a month or whatever it is."

The Celtics forward broke his left hand after colliding with San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge with just over a minute remaining in the first half. Hayward was sent for an X-ray that confirmed the diagnosis. He did not return to the game.

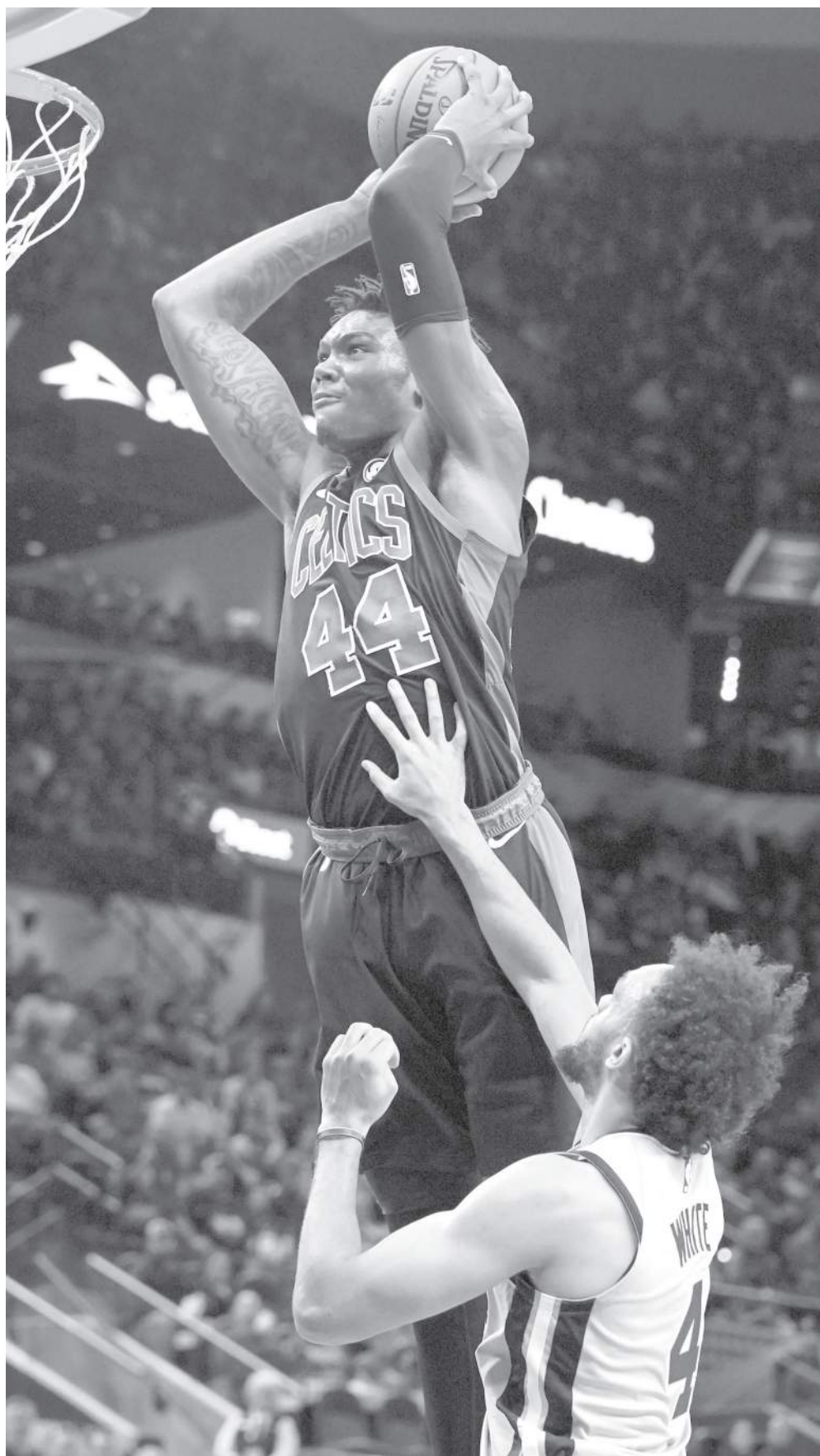
"Going to get with the doctors tomorrow and decide if he needs to do surgery or not," Stevens said. "Sounds like should he decide that the surgery option (is best, it) might actually be a better timeline. So, we'll see what that all plays out to be."

DeMar DeRozan had 22 points for the Spurs (5-4), who trailed by as many as 22 points in a lackluster effort of an early tipoff.

"What surprises me is that we were so unaggressive and so unphysical," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

Boston has not lost since dropping its season opener to Philadelphia, 107-93, on Oct. 23. The Celtics have outscored their opponents 115-101 since that loss and raised that dominance against the Spurs.

Boston sped up its pace and went on a 19-3 run after giving up the game's first seven points. Every Celtics starter scored during the run, includ-



^{AP} Boston Celtics' Robert Williams (44) dunks as San Antonio Spurs' Derrick White watches during the second half of an NBA game, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019, in San Antonio.

for the Warriors, and Glenn Robinson III finished with 18. Omari Spellman sprained his left ankle and didn't return after halftime.

"We are a young team that is learning, but I'm not happy with where we are," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We should not just accept our fate. We shouldn't feel sorry for ourselves and say well we have all these injuries and you know we are playing two-way guys or whatever and going for the lottery and all this crap. We should win some games"

After Golden State took an 88-86 lead on Willie Cauley-Stein's jumper early in the fourth, Paul scored four points during Oklahoma City's 9-0 run to regain the lead for good. Hamidou Diallo's jumper pushed the advantage to 106-92 with 5:01 left.

"We knew that we were not playing with the right intensity and we needed to bring it back," Gallinari said. "We didn't bring it in the third quarter. We did a good job in the first two quarters and so it was about the intensity of the game."

Pelicans 115, Hornets 110

In Charlotte, Brandon Ingram had 25 points and nine rebounds, and New Orleans overcame 26 turnovers to beat the Hornets and snap a three-game losing streak.

JJ Redick had 22 points on five 3-pointers and Jrue Holiday added 12 points and 11 assists for the Pelicans (2-7).

Ingram, who was born and raised in Kinston, North Carolina, finished 8 of 12 from

the field and had 10 points in the fourth quarter while the Hornets went cold down the stretch.

Devonte Graham led the Hornets with 24 points and 10 rebounds. Terry Rozier had 18 points. However, both players shot 5 of 14 from the field as the Hornets were limited to 41% shooting as a team.

Rockets 117, Bulls 94

In Chicago, James Harden narrowly missed his first triple-double of the season, finishing with 42 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as Houston pulled away in the second half and beat the Bulls.

Russell Westbrook scored 26 points as the Rockets won their third straight.

Wendell Carter Jr. had 13 points and 16 rebounds for Chicago, which has dropped six of eight.

The Bulls were a woe-ful 4-for-32 shooting from 3-point range.

Mavericks 138, Grizzlies 122

In Memphis, Luka Doncic fell just short of a triple-double with 24 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists to lead Dallas over the Grizzlies.

Doncic recorded his stats in three quarters as Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle sat the second-year guard while Dallas maintained a double-digit lead in the final period. Kristaps Porzingis already had taken the night off recovering from a left knee injury.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 20 points for Dallas, Justin Jackson had 17 points and Seth Curry scored 16, all in the first half.

Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 23 points on 10-for-17 shooting from the field, including a pair of 3-pointers. Jae Crowder added 18 points for the Grizzlies, which lost their second straight.

ing seven straight points from Brown to ignite the rally.

Popovich called a full timeout and replaced all five of his starters in one mass substitution five minutes into the game, but that didn't stem Boston's momentum.

"They move the ball extremely well, they play well together and we caught onto that a little bit too late," DeRozan said.

The dominance continued throughout the second quarter until Hayward exited.

Hayward winced in pain after banging his left hand against Aldridge's chest attempting to get past the Spurs forward on a screen late in the first half. Hayward appeared to jam the hand once or twice more against Aldridge before exiting the game.

"Gordon's really playing

well right now and we're leaning on him to help us with this season and this run we're trying to make," Brown said. "I know that's really tough. Any time you deal with an injury like that, that's disheartening."

Hayward had nine points and two rebounds in 15 minutes before exiting.

Thunder 114, Warriors 108

In Oklahoma City, despite beating the banged-up Golden State Warriors for the second time this season, the Thunder know they need to be more consistent.

Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points, Dennis Schroder added 18, and the Thunder beat the Warriors.

Oklahoma City led by 23 late in the second quarter before Golden State roared back

to tie the score heading to the fourth. The Thunder then went up by 14 midway through the fourth, and the Warriors mounted another rally before falling short.

"I mean we showed that we can turn it on, but you know that's not going to work most nights in the league," said the Thunder's Chris Paul, who had 16 points and nine assists.

Steven Adams scored 13 and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 12 to help the Thunder win for the third time in four games.

D'Angelo Russell scored 17 of his 32 points in the third quarter to lead Golden State, including a 3-pointer at the buzzer to tie the score at 84-all. One night earlier, Russell had a career-high 52 against Minnesota.

Alec Burks had 23 points

Raptors' Lowry, Ibaka out indefinitely

TORONTO (AP)—Raptors point guard Kyle Lowry and center Serge Ibaka will be out indefinitely after injuries against the New Orleans Pelicans.

Lowry fractured his left thumb during the first quarter of Friday night's 122-104 victory. The team said Saturday he will be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Ibaka sprained his right ankle and will undergo additional imaging in Los Angeles, where Toronto plays the Lakers on Sunday and the Clippers and former teammate Kawhi Leonard on Monday.

Lowry is averaging 21.8 points and 6.5 assists. Ibaka is averaging 14.0 points and

6.5 rebounds.

Lowry went to the bench after he was hurt but returned a few minutes later. He made two 3-pointers in the second quarter before subbing out midway through the period and retreating to the locker room.

He said after the game the injury is unrelated to the surgery he had in July to repair ligaments in the same thumb.

Ibaka was in a walking boot after the game. He was injured when he contested a layup by Brandon Ingram with about a minute remaining in the second quarter. Ibaka lay on the floor, writhing in pain as play continued, before a Toronto foul allowed two teammates to help him limp off the floor.

Captain Woods will play in Presidents Cup

NEW YORK—Tiger Woods will have an ear piece, a radio and his golf clubs at the Presidents Cup.

Woods created his own slice of history Thursday night by becoming the first Presidents Cup captain to use one of his wild-card selections on himself.

He is the second playing captain in the Presidents Cup. Hale Irwin played in the inaugural matches in 1994 when he qualified for the team. He had Paul Azinger, who was recovering from cancer, as one of his assistants.

Woods was introduced as captain in March 2018, when he was just returning from a fourth surgery on his lower back. He has won three times since then, including his 15th major when he won the Masters in April.

"It's going to be a lot of work, but something I've been looking forward to for a long time," Woods said.

The decision was hardly a surprise. Woods not only is the Masters champion, just two weeks ago he tied the PGA Tour record with his 82nd career victory at the Zozo Championship in Japan. Woods said it was that trip — not just the victory, but the travel—that convinced him he was fully healed from minor knee surgery in August and capable of contributing in Australia.

The Presidents Cup is Dec. 12-15 at Royal Melbourne.

Woods also selected Tony Finau, who finished just outside the top eight who qualified; U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, who is playing on his first U.S. team; and Patrick Reed.

Missing from the American team is Phil Mickelson, who had played in every Presidents Cup since the matches began in 1994. Woods also left off Rickie Fowler, who got married and has not played since the Tour Championship; and Kevin Kisner, who is 16-5-3 in match play, including a vic-



tory and runner-up in the last two Dell Match Play events.

And still to be determined is whether PGA champion Brooks Koepka, the No. 1 player in the world, will be ready to go. Koepka had stem cell treatment in his left knee after the Tour Championship, and that injured the knee while bracing himself after he slipped on a wet piece of cement in the CJ Cup.

Woods said Koepka told him he was rehabbing the knee and that the focus now was on the 12 players who will try to win the Presidents Cup for the eighth straight time.

Woods did not say what kind of contingency plan he

had if Koepka couldn't make it. He also left open the option of adding an assistant captain now that he'll be playing. He currently has Fred Couples, Steve Stricker and Zach Johnson.

Woods said those three had strong thoughts on him playing, especially Couples.

"Freddie was pretty ardent. 'You're on the team, quit being stupid.' At the time, I haven't even swung a club," Woods said. "I got back to him after Japan."

Everyone is required to play in at least one match ahead of the Sunday singles, meaning Woods only has to play twice. He said

he could play more depending on what the team needs.

The rest of the U.S. team is Dustin Johnson, Xander Schauffele, Bryson DeChambeau, Justin Thomas, Matt Kuchar, Patrick Cantlay and Webb Simpson.

Cantlay, Schauffele and Woodland are the only players who have never competed in a Presidents Cup or Ryder Cup.

International captain Ernie Els filled out his team Wednesday, adding two rookies (Sungjae Im and Joaquin Niemann) to a team that already had four Presidents Cup newcomers.

Royal Melbourne is where

the International team had its only victory in 1998. The Americans won in 2011 at Royal Melbourne with Woods—a captain's pick—delivering the winning point.

Woods announced himself with his fourth and final pick.

"As captain, I'm going to choose Tiger Woods as the last player on the team," he said. "He's made ... nine Cups and he's played in Australia twice in the Presidents Cup, so this will be his third appearance as a player. And I find it interesting talking in the third person."

Even more interesting will be his week in Australia—at times in a cart, at times standing over a key putt, all the

AP
Tiger Woods of the United States lines up a putt on the 13th hole during the final round of the Zozo Championship PGA Tour at the Accordia Golf Narashino country club in Inzai, east of Tokyo, Japan, Monday, Oct. 28, 2019.

while thinking about pairings and what it takes to win.

Reed ready for redemption

Reed has been a consistent member for the United States teams in international competitions in recent years.

Yet this time around, Reed didn't earn an automatic bid for Woods' Presidents Cup team.

"This is the first time I've been a pick, but it just makes me want to go out there and justify my place even more," Reed said. "I want everyone to think Tiger made the right decision when he picked me."

Reed had a rough stretch on Tour last season, failing to finish inside the top 20 in 11 straight events over a three-month span. He finished T47 at The Players Championship and missed the cut at the PGA Championship, too.

He ended the year strong, however. Reed finished inside the top 10 in four of his final eight tournaments of the season, picking up a win at The Northern Trust—the first of three FedExCup Playoffs events—and finished T9 at the Tour Championship. He's pushed that play over into this season, too, having recorded a T17 finish at the Zozo Championship and a T8 finish at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions. He's back inside the top 15 in the World Golf Rankings, too.

"I must admit I dug myself a hole earlier this year," Reed said. "That's why I didn't qualify. And I've been forced to play more of the golf I know how to play to get a pick ... I feel like I've played some solid golf."

CALIFORNIA—The U.S. women's national team has been granted class status in its lawsuit against U.S. Soccer that alleges gender discrimination in compensation and working conditions.

U.S. District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner's ruling Friday in Los Angeles expands the case beyond the 28 players who originally brought the lawsuit to include all players who had been called up to camp or played in a game over a multiyear period. U.S. Soccer had opposed the move to certify the class.

Twenty-eight players, including stars Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe, were part of the original suit filed against

Judge grants USWNT class status in discrimination lawsuit

U.S. Soccer in March alleging institutionalized gender discrimination that includes inequitable compensation between the men's and women's teams. A May 5 trial date has been set in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

The federation has maintained that compensation for each team is the result of separate collective bargaining agreements, and that the pay structures are different as a result. Men's team players are paid largely by appearance and performance, while the contract for the women's team includes provisions for health

care and other benefits, as well as salaries in the National Women's Soccer League.

The players disputed U.S. Soccer's claims that some of them made more than their male counterparts, maintaining that if men had been as successful as the women's team, they would have earned far more. The U.S. women won back-to-back World Cup titles in 2015 and 2019. The men failed to make the field for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Judge Klausner did not rule on the merits of the lawsuit but acknowledged the play-

ers' claims that they were paid less on a per-game basis than the men and did not enjoy the same working conditions.

"The failure to provide the (women's National Team) with equal working conditions is a real (not abstract) injury which affects each Plaintiff in a personal and individual way," the judge ruled. "Plaintiffs also have offered sufficient proof of this injury. Indeed, Plaintiffs have submitted declarations establishing that WNT players were subject to discriminatory working conditions."

Molly Levinson, who speaks for the players in matters of the lawsuit, applauded the ruling.

"This is a historic step forward in the struggle to achieve equal pay. We are so pleased that the Court has recognized USSF's ongoing discrimination against women players - rejecting USSF's tired arguments that women must work twice as hard and accept lesser working conditions to get paid the same as men. We are calling on (U.S. Soccer President) Carlos Cordeiro to lead USSF and demand an end to the unlawful discrimination against

women now," Levinson said.

U.S. Soccer had "no specific comment" on the ruling.

However, Cordeiro said at the press conference on Oct. 28 in New York to introduce the new U.S. women's soccer coach that "the federation has always been committed to paying our players, our senior nation team players—both our women and our men—fairly and equitably, regardless of gender."

He added he was disappointed the mediation efforts in August weren't successful.

"Notwithstanding that, I'd say we're still very committed to resolving this and in a fair way," Cordeiro said. "But I think at the end of the day that requires compromise."

Gordon on track for debut with Seahawks



RENTON, Wash. (AP)— Josh Gordon didn't know where he'd land

following his release from the New England Patriots last week. He did have one place in particular he wanted to end up.

Gordon said Friday that he hoped he'd have a chance to play with Russell Wilson and that the two of them had long discussed the idea of playing together some day.

"Me and Russ have been talking about it for a little while behind the scenes how nice it would be but here I am," Gordon said. "I admire his game. I think maybe he respected mine mutually. I love the way he plays. It's as simple as that. He's just a great ball player. He can make it happen from pretty much anywhere."

Gordon and Wilson have known each other for close to five years and have routinely kept in touch with each other. They often talked about football and what it would be like if they ever had a chance to suit up together in the NFL.

"I guess we just kind of kept tabs on each other from time to time and then just mutually admiring each other's game and saying what's up," Gordon said. "That's about it. We always talked football and I think we built some type of relationship prior to me getting here so pretty nice to have that."

Gordon was released from a brief stint on the Patriots' injured reserve last a week ago. With the trade deadline having passed, Gordon was subject to the league's waiver process instead of becoming an outright free agent. Seattle sat 28th in the waiver order and 27 other teams had to forego placing a claim on Gordon for the Seahawks to get him on their roster.

Now with a full week of practice in Seattle, Gordon could make his debut in a key NFC West matchup Monday night against the San Francisco 49ers.

"He did really well," coach Pete Carroll said. "He was very impressive in terms of picking stuff up, studying overtime. He fit in really well. He's a really good athlete. You can really tell that he's got a lot of potential to be a big-time player. It was fun seeing him on the practice field. Did a nice job."

Teammates such as cornerback Jamar Taylor, Mychal Kendricks and Jacob Hollister, who had played with Gordon during his stops in Cleveland and New England, spoke highly of Gordon. Despite his numerous off-field issues, they collectively called him a great teammate and a hard worker.

"He's been great since he's gotten here," Wilson said.



"He's been studying like crazy. He sits up (front) and takes tons of notes. He's highlighting like crazy. He's in his playbook non-stop. He's prepared. He'll be prepared and ready to roll. He's a true

pro. He's been in different systems and stuff like that. I think that helps him. I think he's really fired up to be here. We're fired up to have him. We're looking forward to how he plays on Sunday."

Carroll didn't fully commit to Gordon playing against the 49ers but said there's "a good chance" it happens.

"I'm grateful to be here," Gordon said. "A lot of gratitude, definitely thankful to

land in a spot like this. It could have been anywhere. I couldn't control that but nonetheless I'm grateful to have this opportunity to go out there and do what I do."

Meanwhile, Colts quarter-

Russell Wilson AP's clear MVP favorite

DENVER (AP)—Von Miller swears he has seen the future of football in Lamar Jackson, who is revolutionizing the quarterback position in the NFL's 100th season.

"He's so dynamic," Miller said. "He's showing you can win in this league with a running quarterback."

Miller said if he had an MVP vote, he'd give it to Baltimore's bustling quarterback, who knocked Tom Brady and the New England Patriots from the ranks of the unbeaten with an emphatic 37-20 state-ment Sunday night.

Miller doesn't get to vote, but Sirius XM's Pat Kirwan does, and he agrees with Denver's star linebacker about the Ravens' second-year QB who is the focal point of a run-oriented offense in a pass-happy world.

Jackson will have to do some more convincing down the stretch, though.

The Associated Press, which hands out the NFL's individual awards on the eve of the Super Bowl at the NFL Honors television show,

polled eight of the 50-member voting panel this week and the other seven MVP votes all went to Seahawks QB Russell Wilson.

Here's what else they had to say as the league hit the halfway point of its centennial season:

"It's a three-player race right now, and Russell Wilson, Lamar Jackson and Deshaun Watson all are right answers," said Charean Williams of Pro Football Talk, who noted Wilson's league-leading 22 TD throws, one interception and NFL-best 118.2 passer rating, saying, "It's hard to argue with that."

No other QB has ever had a 22-to-1 ratio through nine games and only two other QBs -- Dan Marino and Peyton Manning -- topped 20 TD passes in each of his first eight seasons like Wilson has.

Jackson has run for 637 yards and five touchdowns and thrown for 1,813 yards and a dozen TDs. Like Wilson, he has proven adept at avoiding big hits by running

out of bounds or sliding.

"The revolution is on," declared his coach, John Harbaugh. "For those who are paying attention, there's something pretty cool going on."

For the Coach of the Year, it's a two-man race between Kyle Shanahan and Sean Payton, although the 49ers have a much tougher home stretch than the Saints. San Francisco's remaining opponents are 36-22-1 for a .619 winning percentage and the opponents left on the Saints' schedule are 25-24 (.510).

"Kyle Shanahan, just barely over Belichick," said ESPN's Jeff Legwold, who cast one of five votes for the 49ers' third-year coach who has reversed his 0-8 start from two years ago.

The other three votes went to Payton, whose Saints (7-1) survived Drew Brees' thumb injury.

"When Brees suffered a broken thumb, Teddy Bridgewater came off the bench and led New Orleans to a 5-0 record before Brees came back and threw for 373 yards in a

22-point win over the Arizona Cardinals," noted John Clayton of 710 ESPN Seattle. "It put on display just how well-coached the 7-1 Saints are."

Fore Comeback Player of the Year, the clear leader is 49ers QB Jimmy Garoppolo with four votes, followed by Rams WR Cooper Kupp with two. Both stormed back this year from torn ACLs that sidelined them last season.

"Jimmy G. has rebounded in a big way," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa. "He guides the NFC's No. 1 scoring offense and has completed 71% of his pass attempts. His average of 8.0 yards per pass attempt ranks higher than both Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady."

Williams voted for Kupp, noting: "The Rams might have had more offense in the Super Bowl if Cooper Kupp had played. Less than a year after tearing his ACL, Kupp has 58 catches for 792 yards and five touchdowns, all ranking him among the league leaders."

AP
In this Dec. 9, 2018 file photo, Miami Dolphins free safety Minkah Fitzpatrick (29) interferes with a pass intended for then New England Patriots wide receiver Josh Gordon (10) during the second half of an NFL game in Miami Gardens, Fla.

back Jacoby Brissett won't be playing against the Dolphins because of an ailing knee.

The late scratch Saturday means Brian Hoyer will make his first start in more than two years.

But Miami coach Brian Flores doesn't need to scramble through game tape for a scouting report. He saw up close for the better part of the last two seasons when both were with New England.

Hoyer, who finished last week's game after Brissett was injured, knows what he's up against in Flores.

"Brian Flores is an incredible coach. I've known him since my rookie year," said. "I was away from him and then I came back to see him as the defensive coordinator. I know their offensive staff and their scheme."

The Colts (5-3) have plenty at stake Sunday.

They have struggled to score the past two weeks and their vaunted offensive line has allowed nine sacks during the span. Penalties have been costly and so have special team miscues. And now Indy has lost Brissett, who sprained the medial collateral ligament of his left knee in last weekend's loss at Pittsburgh. The defeat knocked the Colts out of the AFC South lead.

"This business is brutal," Colts coach Frank Reich said. "You lose and you feel the sting of it and you feel like your back is against the wall and we have to respond."

Flores has faced the same scenario—seven times this season.

It's a stark contrast from his days of routine victory celebrations in New England, for whom he was a longtime assistant. Instead, he's running the rebuilding Dolphins (1-7) who are trying to build momentum after their first win last week.

But Flores knows it will be a tough task against a quarterback who earned his respect backing up Tom Brady.

"He is as smart as they come at the quarterback position," Flores said. "He understands defense, has been in a few different systems and understands different ways to protect, to schematically put together different concepts. He and I would go back and forth, talk about defense, talk about offense, talk about protections, talk about route concepts—another impressive guy."

3 make NMSA October honor roll



Pangilinan

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH Badminton player Janelle Pangilinan and runners Anika Snyder and Ken Song took the Northern Marianas Sports Association's October top honors for

their notable performances in off-island tournaments last month.

Pangilinan, along with her partner Nicole Malasarte, won the women's open doubles event in the Badminton Invitational Guam 2019 held at the John F. Kennedy High School from Oct. 11 to 13. The duo



Snyder

won over Philippines' Jocelyn Rentillo and Lyzel Querol in the best-of-three finals, 2-1.

The 21-year-old Pangilinan also played in the mixed dou-



Song

bles division, pairing up with her brother, Jordan, and they made it to the finale, too. The siblings eventually settled for the runner-up honors after

losing to Guam's Jinsha Yao and C.J. Estipona.

Meanwhile, Snyder and Song of Saipan International School were named NMSA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athlete of the Month for leading Team Marianas in the 2019 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross-Country Championships held in Japan.

Song was the top finisher among the Commonwealth's male runners as he completed the 5-kilometer race in 18:23.2. He made it to the prestigious All-Island, as he was ranked No. 12 overall in the boys division that had nearly 100 runners from Ja-

pan, Guam, and the CNMI.

Snyder, on the other hand, was the Commonwealth's fastest female finisher in the same race after recording 23:05 mark.

Snyder and Song also led Team Marianas to third place overall in the combined individual and relays results, joining St. Mary's/Seisen, and Christian Academy in Japan in the podium.

Snyder and Song before heading to Japan for the Asia Pacific event, dominated the series of races in the Public School System/Northern Marianas Athletics' All Schools Cross Country Championship.

6JMS Mafia tops Masters Division

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



6JMS Mafia was crowned champion in the Masters Division of the Saipan Electronics Darts Association Bud Light Cup after defeating Jonny's Ridin' Darty in their finals showdown, 9-6, last Thursday.

Mafia took the win in the Partners Crazy Cricket, courtesy of Erwin Clavecillas, who also prevailed in the 501 Double along with Omar Quindoza. Gil Gatmaitan also contributed to Mafia's cause with his victory win in the Partner Regular Cricket.

In the Partner 701 Double



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

6JMS Mafia players pose for a photo after beating Jonny's Ridin' Darty in their finals showdown, 9-6, in the Masters Division of the Saipan Electronics Darts Association Bud Light Cup last week.

In/Double Out, Mafia had a sweep with Quindoza, Ric Elepante, Gamaitan, and Clavecillas winning, while Gatmaitan, Clavecillas, and

Elepante also ruled the Singles Regular Cricket.

In other results, the Bud Light Cup Thursday Division just entered its quar-

terfinal round. The Round of 8 pairings are as follows: 6JMS Darty Minded facing 6JMS Bandits; 6JMS 80 Proofers battling Jonny's Serial Killaz; Jonny's Parakeyu dueling 6JMS Rectify; and Oleai Five challenging Uncle Mel's Dartholiks.

6JMS Darty Minded won over 6JMS Thunder in the first round, 8-5; Bandits edged Kyodai, 8-7; Proofers nipped No Fear, 8-6; Killaz downed Darty, 8-4; Parakeyu beat Na'Gupu, 8-3; Rectify prevailed over Twisted Tribe, 8-6; Five 9 topped Real Deal, 8-7; and Dartaholiks defeated Just 4 Fun, 8-3.

The quarterfinals matches will be played on Nov. 14.

IT&E

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led the breakaway, as he asserted his might in the paint against the much smaller MS Villagomez's frontliners to score 10 of his 13 points in the pivotal quarter.

Errol Peredo then finished what Barbo started after firing 12 markers in the final canto.

MS Villagomez, which worked its way back from a 2-13 deficit in the first period and tied the match twice in the second (32-all and 37-all), folded up in third, as only Mel Manibusan hit more than one basket for the squad in the penultimate frame.

Matthew Richardson and Chioni Dela Cruz, who teamed up in MS Villagomez's fight-back late in the first canto and up to the second quarter, were held to one field goal apiece. Anthony Lajara, who was also a key factor in MS Villagomez's run in the first half after making three triples, was scoreless in the third quarter.

Them in the fourth canto, the offensive struggle continued for MS Villagomez and this time it had no player drilling more than one field goal in the meltdown. Richardson was limited to a triple and a pair of free throws, while Dela Cruz and Lajara were shut down. MS Villagomez was held to three field goals off with Steve King making a triple and Manibusan a deuce, while Eli Aughenbaugh added two free throws.

MS Villagomez played without one of its scorers, Shane Deleon Guerrero.

Caravan's was also without its gunner—Ken Viray—and Saipan Vegas capitalized on the absence of its opponent's key player to notch the easy win and move closer to the finals.

Sans Viray, who averaged 22 points per game in the regular season and missed Game 1 due to a leg injury, Caravan's fell behind early and never recovered.

Saipan Vegas built a promising 31-18 lead, behind the 10 points of Preston Basa and Coby Santos' 8 in the opening period. Saipan Vegas went on to protect its double-digit lead in the last three quarters, as they ran a balance offense, while Caravan's clearly missed its go-to-guy.

First Game

IT&E 94—De Guzman 17, Peredo 15, Barbo 13, Aranda 12, Demapan 10, De Dios 8, Flores 7, Rabasto 7, Talania 3, Rafols 2.

MS Villagomez 59—Richardson 21, Manibusan 11, Lajara 9, King 7, Dela Cruz 6, Aughenbaugh 5.

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 42-37, 68-47, 94-59.

Second Game

Saipan Vegas 96—Atan 17, Santos 16, P. Basa 11, Schmidt 11, Rabauliman 9, Kabriel 7, Sablan 6, Libue 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, Bondoc 4, Onopwy 3, Diaz 2.

Caravan's 81—Andrew 15, Factor 14, Standish 12, Quan 10, Villarin 8, Rasa 6, Younis 4, Castro 4, Tenorio 3, Tudela 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-18, 50-34, 73-62, 96-81.

GAMES

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The visitors are also expected to check on the facilities that will be used for the Mini Games. Only minor repairs and

NMSA

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release employees for now because we cannot pay them because we're out of money. It's pretty much on a voluntary basis that we're here," he said.

Rogolifo informed the board that he met with the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation last week and Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) assured him that they have been working diligently to identify a funding source for NMSA, but the missing piece to get the wheels turning is a thorough report that has yet to be submitted.

According to NMSA treasurer John Hirsh, NMSA is still working on the reports. The group's board members believed that they were ready for submission last week.

Hirsh then explained that, as NMSA's treasurer, he wants

clearing have been done at the Oleai Sports Complex—the main hub of the quadrennial event—as NMSA is still waiting for Federal Emergency Management Agency's go ahead to proceed with the re-

to ensure the accuracy of the reports because he, along with their certified public accountant, are the ones who will defend the numbers when presented to the Legislature. So if his CPA is not confident with the format of the reports, then it cannot be submitted.

"If my CPA says that this information is not in a format that he is confident with, I can't present that to the legislature and the government, because I'm going to need him up at the Legislature to help interpret these numbers and explain them to the community," Hirsh said.

Hirsh informed the board that the reports are, in fact, still far from being completed and it is still indefinite when it will be submitted to SNILD for review.

"We met as a board last week and we kind of got to the end of the finish line and the reports were done. It was literally a matter of putting in the

pair work. The project is expected to begin early next year.

NMSA is also waiting for the appointment of three government officials to the Pacific Mini Games Oversight Committee.

"The Oversight Commit-

tee was formed shortly after the Games were awarded to us in 2014. The Committee currently lacks three members, to be appointed by the governor," NMSA president Michael White said.

Volunteers

Rogolifo did not disclose how many staff they are letting go, but said that those who will stay will work as volunteers.

The NMSA executive directed said that because there are prior commitments to various groups using the facilities at the sports complex, they must keep them open even if it means he and one other staff will shoulder the maintenance work until they get funding.

"They (lawmakers) are try-

ing to help but again, the process (getting funding) will take time and I feel so bad because I have to release people and it might leave only two of us here as volunteers," Rogolifo said.

NMSA has some funding left from its lottery earnings and membership fees, but they are used for athletes and officials' participation in off-island competitions and maintenance of the Oleai Sports Complex. Payroll has been covered by the government since 2014 when NMSA was assigned as caretaker of the facility, but no funds were allotted for the new fiscal year due to the government's belt-tightening measures.

NMSA needs its staff, especially when the Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded repair work at the complex starts next year in preparation for the Commonwealth's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.



Hayward
injured, but
Celtics still
rout Spurs

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Captain
Woods
will play in
Presidents Cup

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

IT&E, Saipan Vegas near finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E and Saipan Vegas are a win away from setting up their finals date in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League after prevailing against their respective semis foes last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IT&E topped MS Villagomez, 94-59, in Game 1 of their best-of-three semis series, while Saipan Vegas also won by double figures, 96-81, in the opener of its Final Four showdown against Caravan's. Both IT&E and Saipan Vegas were gunning for a sweep last night in Game 2, while MS Villagomez and



Caravan's were fighting for survival in the short semis series.

Just after MS Villagomez closed the gap at halftime, falling behind by only 5, 37-42, IT&E resumed its dominance in the third period to take a commanding 68-47 lead. Darwin Barbo

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Sean Rabasto unloads a shot in front of MS Villagomez defenders during the second quarter of Game 1 of their semis series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, fourth left, and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, right, pose with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, fifth left, and Northern Marianas Sports Association officials after a meeting at the Governor's Office in April this year. The PGC officials will be back on Saipan tomorrow to meet with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres regarding the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Important meeting for 2021 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games Council officials will meet with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres tomorrow to discuss important matters related to CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

PGC president Vidhya Lakhan and chief executive officer Andrew Minogue are scheduled to arrive on Saipan early tomorrow morning for their meeting with Torres in the afternoon. Northern Marianas Sports Association officials are also expected to join

the meeting, which will be the first gathering among stakeholders since the CNMI's hosting of the Mini Games was confirmed in August in Samoa during the 2019 Pacific Games.

Neither PGC nor NMSA has disclosed the detailed agenda of the meeting, but in previous communication with Minogue, he mentioned that the next step after the Mini Games hosting confirmation is the contract signing between the PGC and the host nation.

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Cash-trapped NMSA to lay off staff

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



The Northern Marianas Sports Association will be laying off staff members, as it has no funds left for payroll.

During the NMSA board meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, executive director Tony Rogolifo announced that NMSA has officially ran out of funding for payroll and will not be able to pay its workers until a funding source is identified. NMSA did not get an allocation from the government budget for fiscal year 2019-2020.

"We're broke. We have nothing. Right now, as far as payroll is concerned, we don't have money for it. I have to

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, Northern Marianas Sports Association staff clear the flooring of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after it flooded due to Super Typhoon Yutu in October last year.